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THE COMMERCIAL, PITTSBURGH.

The Daily Commercial.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

At a meeting of the New York Board of Education on Wednesday, a letter was received from the Trustees of the Seventh ward, recommending that the ancient Irish language be taught in the public schools. The letter was referred to the Committee on Studies.

The New York Union League Club celebrated the anniversary of the battle of Fort Donelson Wednesday night, with a ball. Nearly twelve hundred persons were present. It was a brilliant affair.

The Erie Railway Company, James Fisk, Jr., and others, have been sued and enjoined in the Common Pleas Court in regard to a play entitled "Twelve Temptations," now being played at the Grand Opera House, New York. Another action is pending in the Supreme Court, before Judge Barnard, in which the parties are reversed. Arguments on the merits of the latter case are to be heard on Friday.

The proprietors of the hotels of New York have organized an Ice Company, in opposition to the existing monopoly, and for the protection of ice consumers in general.

A special dispatch states that the sensation so long promised society, in the marriage of Count Fatenhazy, of the Austrian Legation, and Mrs. Gen. Griffin, *nee* Carroll, is not, after all, to be produced. The report that an engagement had been existed between these parties, and that Count Esternazy had procured special permission from the Emperor of Austria, to contract the alliance, proves to be without foundation, as nothing of the kind has even been contemplated by either party.

In Paterson, New Jersey, the trial in the suit of McGregor against the Erie Railway Company for alleged overcharges in freight, began on Wednesday. Defendants argued that the company has hitherto been obliged to pay express companies more for freight losses than its entire receipts from them, and that its action in placing the handling of its freights in the hands of one responsible party was in self defense, and consequently entirely within the entire innocence of any intention to defraud or extort, as alleged.

The Union Pacific trains continue running without interruption.

The Hebrews of Chicago have opened a Club House on Michigan avenue.

A. T. Whittlesey, editor of the Evansville *Courier*, a prominent Democrat and former bitter opponent of the colored race, sends a letter to the Lincoln Association of Washington tendering the hospitality of his house to Frederick Douglass, regretting that the invitation can not be made welcome without regard to race or color.

The main building of Broner's woolen works, in Philadelphia, was burned yesterday. Loss on building and machinery $40,000; insurance $32,000.

Miss Susan Galton, of the late Galton troupe, was married in Philadelphia yesterday to Mr. Kelleher, formerly connected with the troupe.

Patrick Beakan was yesterday convicted of murder in the second degree for killing Thos. Maginnes, in the town of Mumford, N. Y., last April.

The success of the recent experiments with the double-shotted projectile at Fortress Monroe was but partial. Col. Baylor, ordinance officer, does not indorse the opinion of the inventor.

The first direct shipment from Louisville to New York, over the new bridge, was made yesterday.

The heavy sale prevailed at Memphis last night, and boats were unable to leave.

Daniel A. Hasbrauck, the Ulster county, N. Y., farmer attacked by a deaf and dumb negro with an ax on Tuesday, died yesterday.

The Nova Scotia Legislature opened its session yesterday. The Lieutenant Governor strongly recommends the earliest attention to the subject of the fisheries, and expresses gratification at the bounteousness of the harvest and success of the fisheries.

Henning & Genbark, the Hudson City, N. J., match makers, convicted of using counterfeit revenue stamps, were sentenced in the United States Court yesterday to one year each in the State prison at hard labor.

HARRISBURG.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

Centennial Anniversary of American Independence—The House Treasury Bill in the Senate—The Military History—Bills Introduced and Passed—The Appointment Bill Ready—Probable Adjournment in March—A New Republican Paper.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 17, 1870.

SENATE.

Petitions and Remonstrances.

Mr. Graham presented a petition for and remonstrance against the annexation of McClure township to Allegheny city.

Mr. Howard—Three petitions from Allegheny county for a general local option liquor law.

Also, remonstrance from Pittsburgh bar against the act relative to sheriff.

Also, remonstrance from Birmingham against consolidation.

The Treasury bill from the House was reported favorably.

Mr. Buckalew called up the House resolutions for a joint legislative committee to participate in the proper celebration of the centennial anniversary of American independence, in Philadelphia, July, 1876. Passed.

Bills Introduced.

Mr. Lowry—For an additional State insane hospital for Northwestern Pennsylvania, and commissioners to select the site.

Mr. Beck—Authorizing canal companies to build lateral railroads.

Also, authorizing railroads in this Commonwealth to connect with railroads in other States.

Mr. Nagle—Requiring the registry of railroad mortgages in Philadelphia.

Mr. Howard—Changing the Pittsburgh elections of city and ward officers to the first Tuesday in December.

Mr. Allen—Incorporating the Tionesta and Clarion Railroad Company.

Incorporating the Irwin and Scrubgrass Railroad Company.

The Military History.

The amendments from the House to the Bates Military History resolution were nonconcurred in. Mr. White presented the resolution of the Pittsburgh Convention of the Grand Army of the Republic for a continuance of the history.

The bill for the protection of coal miners has passed nearly all stages in the Committee.

Bills Passed.

EVENING SESSION.—The bill allowing corporations to include accumulations of expenditure in real estate improvements, as part of the capital stock, was passed.

The bill allowing railroads in this State to connect with railroads of other States was passed.

The House Treasury Bill.

Mr. White called up the House Treasury bill and substituted it for his own; it having passed the House. Pending discussion adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The bill restoring the spring elections was discussed and postponed one week.

The bill making it a penal offense for witnesses to wilfully absent themselves was passed.

The bill providing for transferring legal copies of records of the English Courts to those of Pennsylvania was passed.

The Liquor License Question.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—The special order was the new local option liquor license bill. Mr. White introduced an amendment for an annual license fee, but was subsequently withdrawn.

Numerous petitions, aggregating three thousand names, were presented against a change in the license law.

Mr. Cooper moved an amendment allowing the sale of liquor in original packages of not less than one barrel. Lost.

Mr. Vankirk moved an amendment authorizing the sale of no less quantities than six gallons. Carried.

Mr. Porter, of York, moved an amendment that the vote be in counties and not by wards and townships. Carried—ayes, 46; nays, 36.

The bill passed to second reading, no yeas and nays being called on the vital question.

The Committee reported the bill for preventing the destruction or injury of baggage.

New Republican Paper.

Dr. John H. Gibbon, the Governor's private Secretary, will soon resign his office to start a new daily Republican paper in Harrisburg.

Appropriation Bill.

The appropriation bill will be reported in the House to-morrow, the earliest in ten years. The Legislature will probably adjourn by the end of March.

Retains His Seat.

Mr. Forsyth, Democratic sitting member from Philadelphia, was awarded his seat to-day by unanimous report of the Committee.

JAPAN.

Destructive Fires in Yokohama and Yeddo—Native Christians Banished—Failure of the Rice Crop.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 17.—YOKAHOMA, January 24.—Extensive fires have occurred. The Chartered Mercantile Bank building and the premises of Stilwell, Chayer & Co., were destroyed. But one War Department at Yeddo was also burned.

Information from Nagasaki state that the Government of the Mikado had deported 700 native Christians from the main land, against the unanimous protest of the foreign representatives.

The rice crop of the province of Echisen was a total failure. The Government has prohibited the export of rice from Negata except by special license, as provided by treaty with foreign powers. Probably its exportation will be prohibited from open ports.

The telegraph between Yeddo and Yokonama is completed, and the first message was sent on the 7th of January. The wires will be thrown open for mercantile purposes soon.

Ohio River Ironton, O.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Commercial.

IRONTON, O., February 17, 1870.

Boats passed down to-day: Telegraph at 12 M. Passed up: Fleetwood at 12 M. River rising fast; weather cloudy and cool. H.

New Crop Teas in Packages.

Retail price on every package. No excuse for poor tea or high prices. Every grocer should have T. J. Jerkins & Bro.'s teas and coffees. Every family will buy them. †

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VII. PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 18, 1870. NO. 134.

FIRST EDITION.

12 O'CLOCK, M.

WASHINGTON.

Taxation and the Funding Bill.

President Grant's Views on the Finances—The Ways and Means Proposed to Reduce Taxation Thirty Millions—The Sale of Cadetships—Another Member Exposed—Taxing the Mormon Church—The Cuban Question—Progress of the Appropriation Bill—Final Passage of the Mississippi Bill.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 17, 1870.

Our Financial Prospects.

Two members of the Ways and Means Committee had some talk last evening with the President, and the remarks were to-day reported to the full committee. He said that last fall he was of opinion that we had better go on as rapidly as possible in buying up and cancelling our bonds, so as to reduce our debt, and in this view had recommended that we hold our tax and tariff rates generally at the present figures, so as to have a large surplus for use by the Secretary of the Treasury in cutting down indebtedness. He had thought a good deal about this matter, he continued, and had somewhat changed his opinions as to the policy that should be pursued. He was satisfied that it would be best for the country to have a reduction in taxation; that people were anxious for it, and that Congress could not well do less than meet this expectation. In his opinion we might make a reduction of twenty millions in receipts from internal revenue, and he would very readily sign bills looking to such reduction if passed by Congress. Something was said about the funding bill now before the Senate, and he remarked that he himself was not so confident as some persons seem to be that we can negotiate a par loan at four and a half or five per cent. interest. It might be well to pass the bill, but he doubted if we could do much under it this year. The Ways and Means Committee this morning discussed the general question of reducing taxation, and finally agreed to revise the tax bill with a view of making thirty millions reduction. What they will conclude to do relative to the tariff is not yet developed, but each day's developments make it more plain that they will be nothing going through the House nor Senate. The funding bill will probably be called up in the Senate in a short time, and Mr. Sherman and his Committee will support it as vigorously as possible, reporting some minor amendments with which they have agreed in Committee. Some members of the Ways and Means think in view of the opinions of the President and Secretary of the Treasury that it will not be passed by Congress, but it is perhaps too early to express conclusion on this point.

The Sale of Cadetships.

The Military Committee took additional testimony in the cadetship matter. A witness of high standing, and a former Major General in the volunteer service, testified that he, at the request of a friend, was inquiring as to the possibilities of securing an appointment for a son from some member of Congress who had not yet made nominations, and that witness had been referred to Whittemore, of South Carolina, who immediately offered to make the appointment for three thousand dollars, and added that witness must decide soon, as he had several offers. As witness had no idea of going into such business, he turned on his heel and left Mr. Whittemore at once. Witnesses were also examined in relation to other cases, but no decisive evidence was obtained. Storrs and Cowodin have been again required into somewhat, and they are not substantiated. Mr. Pettis, of Pennsylvania, has been notified of the showing made yesterday against him, and will, of course, be accorded a hearing if he wants one. Mr. Collis, formerly of Alabama, now of Wisconsin, has also received similar notification. The friends of Pettis, Collis and Whittemore are all busy in circulating denials on their behalf, and trying to create sympathy, but the evidence tells its own story and is pretty well understood in congressional circles.

Taxation of the Mormons.

The House Territorial Committee has got all the facts about the collection of taxes from Brigham Young. The Assessor at Salt Lake City, having the approval of the Revenue Bureau here, notified him to make out the returns for income tax, and the property of which he holds as trustee. Brigham made an insolent reply, and declined to furnish the returns. The Assessor, therefore, proceeded to do the business himself, and assessed the church for almost sixty thousand dollars, and the tithes for nearly two millions. He says many Mormons with him time figures as necessary, more than reasonable. He believes the church leaders will evade the collection of these taxes, unless Government is firm in its purposes. The officers of the Revenue Bureau here have been instructed by General Sherman about military aid for enforcing the laws, and he says they shall have all they need.

Progress of the Cuban Question.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee spent the whole of their session to-day on the Cuban question without deciding anything. The members as a whole were not so strong for recognition as the Cuban lobby had asserted they would be. Senator Morton's bill, the passage of which a year ago would have prevented the Spanish steamer getting arms and building gunboats here, was talked of and objected to for the reason that it puts a condition of insurrection unknown to International law for the existence of peace and a state of belligerency, and makes Congress instead of the Executive the sole judge as to the existence of this new condition.

Progress.

The Appropriation bill drags very slowly in the House, the members manifesting the utmost eagerness to dodge every item as it is read, and generally showing more zeal to talk than for economy. Mr. Dawes proves himself remarkably ready on every point about which inquiries are made, and thus far has carried the bill along just as it was reported. He will probably have to notify the House pretty soon that there is more talk than seems necessary.

The Mississippi Bill Passed.

One cause for thankfulness to-night is that the Senate has finally got through with the Mississippi bill, and that it can go to the President to-morrow for his signature. The conditions of admission imposed by the House will be agreed to by five majority, and the bill passed with eleven votes in the negative, Lewis, of Virginia, going with the Republicans and Johnson with the Democrats.

Measures of Ports of Entry.

The House Committee to-day agreed to report the bill for the transportation of imported merchandise west in bond, with an amendment adding Buffalo, Milwaukee, Evansville, and Louisville to the names already given.

The Tennessee Republicans.

The Republicans in Congress from Tennessee, Fowler and Hawkins excepted, have sent a dispatch indorsing the movements at Nashville for a reorganization of the Republican party of the State.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 17, 1870.

GENERAL SPENCER,

United States Treasurer, has inaugurated a new system of redeeming the old issues of greenbacks and currency, or of dilapidated notes or bonds of any description. At the various assistant treasurerships and depositories throughout the country, it has been the practice to count and redeem all the money, and then transmit it to the Treasurer's office here. Now the assistant treasurers and other accounting officers receive it in bundles—give a conditional receipt for it, and send it here for examination and count, if the package is correct in amount, and no counterfeits, the conditional receipt is cashed. If the count is short, and there are counterfeits in the package, the amounts are deducted from the face of the receipt. This is done to prevent the redemption of counterfeits at the Treasuries, and to make persons careful how they count their old money.

THE TARIFF AND TAX BILLS.

The Committee on Ways and Means this morning heard Mr. Baldwin, of New York, in behalf of equalizing tax on American and foreign life and fire insurance companies. The committee have resolved, that from the Internal Revenue bill, reduced by $30,000,000 the Internal revenue bill, which is on the basis of collecting $100,000,000. The income tax is to be reduced but not abolished. President Grant and the administration are favorable to a reduction of the tariff by twenty millions, and of internal revenue by thirty millions.

LANGUISHING IMPRACTICABLE.

Reports are in circulation that, it being found impossible to fund the national debt at a lower rate of interest, the project has been given up for this year.

THE MONARCH

Entered Chesapeake Bay at daylight this morning. She will probably reach Annapolis to-night.

CUSTOMS.

The custom receipts last week were $2,915,148.

APPOINTMENTS.

Robert S. Stevens, formerly Superintendent of the branch mint at San Francisco, is appointed one of the Assay Commissioners, vice Swan, declined.

CUBAN QUESTION.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs today discussed at length resolutions relative to the contest between Cuba and Spain, introduced yesterday by Mr. Banks. No conclusion was reached, and the matter will be resumed at the next meeting. There is no truth in the report that the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate have divided on the Cuban question. Their deliberations thus far have been harmonious, and it is probable they will make a united report, favoring Morton's neutrality bill with some modification.

The Agricultural Report.

Returns to the Department of Agriculture during January indicate a decrease in the acreage of winter wheat in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, New England, and the cotton belt. The decrease in Illinois is six per cent.; in Michigan six; in Indiana and New York five. The area in California is nearly the same as last year, and little difference is reported from Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Missouri. Kansas has increased her acreage very largely, and Arkansas, Kentucky and Wisconsin have also made a material increase. The acreage of other winter grains is reduced slightly. The reports of the condition of winter wheat are not generally favorable. In the Ohio Valley the reduction below an average appearance at this period of the year ranges from six to twenty per cent.; in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Texas and California an average condition is indicated. In most of the remaining States the appearance of the plant is comparatively unpromising. The probabilities at present are opposed to the prospect of another year of marked productiveness.

An increased acreage of barley is reported from Kentucky, Mobile Indiana, Wisconsin and Kansas. Its condition is little better than that of wheat. Throughout the Ohio Valley and the Northwest the reduction is represented to be thirteen per cent. In Mobile, nine in Indiana, eight in Illinois, seven in Ohio, and five in Michigan.

TRANSHIPMENT OF MERCHANDISE IN BOND.

The House Commerce Committee has agreed to report Representative Judd's bill allowing merchandise to be transhipped in bond without payment of duties to the West and East, and making ports of entry and delivery of Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, &c. They added Evansville, Indiana, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Buffalo, New York.

PAYMENT OF SPANISH INTEREST IN CURRENCY.

In reply to a resolution of the House asking why the Spanish government has refused to coin the interest on claims of American citizens under the treaty of 1864, Secretary Fish called upon the opinion of the Attorney General to the effect that as the law of 1862 expressly permits the payments of debts due the United States, except duties on imported currency, he could see no reason to doubt that the United States are bound to receive from Spain sums which may become due from time to time, in Treasury notes. If the Spanish Government choose to offer them in payment.

POLITICAL CONDITION OF COLORED MEN.

At a preliminary meeting last night, Senator Pomeroy was authorized to invite the Senators, and Mr. Whittemore, of South Carolina, to invite Representatives to assemble on Monday night at the residence of Mr. Pomeroy, for the purpose of taking into consideration the political condition of the colored people of the South.

MEETING OF TRUSTEES OF PEABODY FUND.

The Trustees of the Peabody Educational Fund were in session to-day. Reports were made concerning the operations of the last six months. An appropriation of about $90,000 was made for educational purposes in the South, but no location named. Agents are to draw from the general fund, under direction of the Executive Committee. The adjournment until the second week in August, the meeting to be held in Philadelphia.

SECRETARY ROBESON

Will probably visit Annapolis to-morrow, to welcome the officers of the British steamer Monarch.

REVENUE OFFICIALS TO BE REMOVED.

One of the results of the recent seizure of the distillery at Baltimore by Deputy Collector Dwyer, will be the removal of two or three subordinate revenue officials in that District.

General Parker, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, recently confined to the house by illness, was at the office to-day on business concerning his Bureau.

ORDERED TO JOIN.

Company K, 5th United States Cavalry, which has been on duty here for a long while, has been ordered to join its regiment in the Department of Platte.

VIRGINIA POLITICS.

There are in Virginia three separate Central Committees, each professing to represent the Republican party. One of these was organized in March by members of the Republican Convention at Petersburg, and nominated Governor Walker; another by bolters from the Richmond Convention of Richmond on the 24th of November last, and the third by the remnants of that Convention. The Chairmen of these Committees are respectively J. H. Goldsmith, Wm. Mahone, and Dr. Virginia Clay, and Hon. C. H. Porter. Some time ago a movement was started here by Republican members of the Virginia Legislature to harmonize them in one organization. Accordingly, a meeting was held yesterday afternoon, notice on a day yet to be named, has been prepared, and signed by Governor Walker, Senator Ayer, Platt, Booker and McKenzie, and by three members from the Central Committee. Gentlemen interested in the movement met here to-day, and after transacting some preliminary business, adjourned to Gen. Grant. Hon. J. H. Platt introduced the delegation, stating to the President the object they had in view, viz: Uniting the Republican party in Virginia, and remarking that it was utterly impossible for the Republicans to triumph in the State unless they consolidate their strength. The President received the delegation cordially. He said the movement was commendable, and one fully entitled to encouragement. Mr. Porter has so far refused to act on the Central Committee of which he is chairman, was represented by four gentlemen who were present to-day, and who, with others, called on the President and Secretary Fish by co-operating in the movement. The names of those gentlemen are Platt, Ayer, Booker, of State Senate, and D. B. White, Robert Norton and Luther Lee, of the House of Delegates. Two of the delegation who called on the President are colored men.

CONGRESS.

The Agony Ended at Last.

The Mississippi Bill Passed, 50 to 11—The Legislative Appropriation Bill, &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 17, 1870.

SENATE.

Mr. WILSON, from the Committee of Conference on the West Point appropriation bill, made a report which was adopted, that the Senate recede from its amendment striking out the clause for the appointment of two Senators and five Representatives to the Board of Visitors.

Mr. SUMNER, from the Committee on Foreign relations, reported a joint resolution authorizing the payment of the full salary of Minister Harvey at Hayti. Passed.

Mr. FENTON introduced a bill declaratory of the tariff act of 1867, providing that no act shall not be permitted to interfere with existing treaty stipulations with Russia, and declaring it the duty of the Secretary to refund in coin the amount of duties levied on Russian goods since the passage of the act. In excess of the rate on Manilla hemp, and appropriating $50,000 for the purpose.

Mr. SCOTT, from the Naval Committee, gave notice that the following resolution had been adopted if there be no objection: That the Naval Committee Congress into the facts in the application of officers for restoration to the naval service, who have been dismissed from the service by sentence of court-martial, unless such restoration is recommended by the Executive department.

Mr. SHERMAN asked that an order be made with the view to taking a vote on the Mississippi bill at three o'clock. Unless the bill was definitely disposed of, he would move to go back on the table in order to take up other objects of importance demanding prompt consideration.

Mr. CAMERON and others objected to the proposition, and the matter went over informally.

Mr. DRAKE introduced a bill amending the naturalization laws. He referred to pending propositions upon the subject, and said his own proposition was a departure from, and not in the established principles of the law regarding naturalization. It was the construction of the law, so that while safeguards were provided against the recurrence of terrible frauds heretofore perpetrated, access to naturalization by well disposed persons might not be impeded. Such was the purpose of the bill.

The unfinished business, the Mississippi bill, was then taken up.

After discussion, by Messrs. Fowler, Sawyer, Drake, Sumner, Warner, Thayer, Cameron and Trumbull, the Senate proceeded to vote upon the pending bill. Mr. Wilkey's amendment, to repeal section 14 of the Virginia bill, was defeated: yeas 23, nays, 30, as follows:

YEAS.

Bayard,	Kelloge,	Stockton,	
Casserly,	McCreery,	Tautman,	
Corkling,	Nye,	Trumbull,	
Davis,	Ross,	Vickers,	
Ferry,	Sanbury,	Warner,	
Fowler,	Sawyer,	Wilkey,	
Hamilton,	Sprague,	Williams.	
Johnston,	Stewart,		

NAYS.

Abbott,	Gilbert,	Pool,	
Anthony,	Hamlin,	Pratt,	
Baymard,	Harlan,	Ramsey,	
Brownlow,	Harris,	Rice,	
Cackling, Ingham,	Howard,	Robertson,	
Cameron,	Howe,	Scott,	
Chandler,	McDonald,	Spencer,	
Cole,	Morrill, Vt.	Sumner,	
Conkling,	Morton,	Thayer,	
Drake,	Osborn,	Tipton,	
Edmunds,	Patterson,	Wilson,	
Fenton,	Pomeroy,	Yates.	

Mr. HOWE stated that upon all the proposed amendments he had paired off with his absent colleague, Mr. Spencer.

The vote was then taken upon the amendment of the Senate Committee to strike out of the bill all conditions and simply declare the State entitled to representation, which was carried: yeas 27, nays 26, the following were the only changes in the vote: Messrs. Cole, Pratt, Morrill, of Maine, and Patterson, who voted aye, and Nye no. Mr. Patterson did not vote.

The bill was then read a third time and passed by a party vote, yeas 50, nays 11.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The bill to prevent and punish polygamy in Utah was considered, Mr. CULLOM made a speech in its explanation and support. It proposed a letter received this morning from a gentleman of character and standing in Salt Lake Utah, stating that unless this bill or some such bill was passed, every man there who was not a Mormon would have to leave the Territory, and that very soon, or place himself where he could be protected by the military. He was one who were now trying to organize a force for self-protection. He gave the bill, with but the slightest idea that more than a few companies of soldiers would be necessary to enforce this law in Utah. All that was necessary was to give to the courts power to enforce convictions for violations of the law, and he knew that the Government of the United States would promptly and in good faith sustain and vindicate longer with that iniquity. The morning hour having expired, the bill went over until the next morning hour.

Mr. LYNCH, from the Select Committee on the Mississippi levees, reported a bill for the relief of commerce, which were ordered printed, and made the special order for the third Tuesday in March.

Mr. VAN WYCK, of New York, took the oath as a member.

The House in Committee then took up the legislative appropriation bills.

Mr. WASHBURN, of Wisconsin, from the Committee on Appropriations, offered an amendment to reduce the item for Private Secretary, Assistant Private Secretary, &c., to the President $5,000, and to make the Fish Commission to two executive clerks at $2,320 each, and for rewards and contingencies of the President, $7,440. The amendment was rejected.

Mr. McKELSEY moved an amendment of one of the items for the State Department, and characterized the Second Assistant Secretary of State as having been at heart, though not in office, a mutineer and rebel during the war. He said that official's wife and family were the most outspoken secessionists, and his house had been made a rendezvous for rebels.

Mr. JENCKES denied the assertion in the most positive manner. He had known the gentleman referred to all through the war, and knew there was no more loyal man in Washington. Some slanderer had evidently been poisoning the ear of the gentleman from New York.

Mr. KELSEY said he had his information from common rumor. Under the statement of the gentleman from Rhode Island he would not move to strike out an appropriation for that official.

In connection with the appropriation for the construction of a branch of the Treasury, the extravagance of the supervising architect, A. B. Mullett, was denounced by Mr. FARNSWORTH.

Mr. Mullett was defended by Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts.

Without disposing of the question, and after progressing through only two pages of the bill, the committee rose.

Mr. LOGAN asked leave to introduce and have passed a bill appropriating $3,000 for expenses of witnesses before the Military Committee, in reference to the sale of cadetships.

Mr. SCOFIELD objected.

The House, at five o'clock, adjourned.

THE STATE FUNDS.

THE TREASURY INVESTIGATION.

THAT "VAULT" ACCOUNT.

Treasurer Mackey's Examination Continued—Monthly Condition of the Vault—Bank Deposits Sometimes Used by Private Individuals—"It Is Customary Where a Man Can Serve His Friends to Accommodate Them"—The Governor Receives Communications on the Subject.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 17, 1870.

The Senate Finance Committee continued their investigations this afternoon into the management of the State funds, Mr. Billingfelt in the chair. All the members of the Committee took part in questioning the witness. Mr. Mackey presented a monthly statement of the State deposits in different banks and bankers from May 31, 1869, to January 31st, 1870. These statements show that the amounts fluctuated from month to month.

The Vault Account.

The accounts known as "Vault" having been questioned, Mr. Mackey explained: Vault account May 31, 1869, $21,335; May 31st, 1869, $356,502; June 30th, 1869, $346,320; July 31st, 1869, $306,172; August 31st, 1869, $421,180; September 30th, $421,502; October 31st, 1869, $270,926; November 30th, 1869, $5,262; December 31st, 1869, $28,940; January 31st, 1870, $8,448.

Mr. Wallace asked of what the vault account of May 31, 1869, consisted. Mr. Mackey replied that it was the predecessor of vault account, consisting of cash items in bank, in checks, &c.

Mr. Mackey, in answer to further questions, acknowledged that his account had been increased and decreased as above stated. There will be the removal of two or three subordinate revenue officials in that District.

General Parker, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, recently confined to the house by illness, was at the office to-day on business concerning his Bureau.

ORDERED TO JOIN.

Company K, 5th United States Cavalry, which has been on duty here for a long while, has been ordered to join its regiment in the Department of Platte.

VIRGINIA POLITICS.

There are in Virginia three separate Central Committees, each professing to represent the Republican party. One of these was organized in March by members of the Republican Convention at Petersburg, and nominated Governor Walker; another by bolters from the Richmond Convention of Richmond on the 24th of November last, and the third by the remnants of that Convention. The Chairmen of these Committees are respectively J. H. Goldsmith, Wm. Mahone, and Dr. Virginia Clay, and Hon. C. H. Porter. Some time ago a movement was started here by Republican members of the Virginia Legislature to harmonize them in one organization. Accordingly, a meeting was held yesterday afternoon, notice on a day yet to be named, has been prepared, and signed by Governor Walker, Senator Ayer, Platt, Booker and McKenzie, and by three members from the Central Committee. Gentlemen interested in the movement met here to-day, and after transacting some preliminary business, adjourned to Gen. Grant. Hon. J. H. Platt introduced the delegation, stating to the President the object they had in view, viz: Uniting the Republican party in Virginia, and remarking that it was utterly impossible for the Republicans to triumph in the State unless they consolidate their strength. The President received the delegation cordially. He said the movement was commendable, and one fully entitled to encouragement. Mr. Porter has so far refused to act on the Central Committee of which he is chairman, was represented by four gentlemen who were present to-day, and who, with others, called on the President and Secretary Fish by co-operating in the movement. The names of those gentlemen are Platt, Ayer, Booker, of State Senate, and D. B. White, Robert Norton and Luther Lee, of the House of Delegates. Two of the delegation who called on the President are colored men.

ST. LOUIS.

Boiler Explosion—Four Persons Killed and Several Injured—Funeral of John J. Roe.

ST. LOUIS, February 17.—A boiler in the Union Railway Car Works of N. M. Woodward, No. 726 Fir Kinkin street, exploded this morning in the immediate suburbs of Fernandina, that they would have been perfectly content to have remained there, without ascending the rarefied atmosphere of the capital, and that upon the coming on of so, but curious to see the country, they strolled down a few miles from the place, and there, on a small prairie, they found innumerable jacks and equally endless varieties of wading birds, and those would rise in clouds at every report of the guns. The sport lasted for several hours, and the party reluctantly returned to town to take the cars on the morrow. Fernandina, on a large prairie, close adjoining, they discovered a paradise for the sportsman and naturalist. On a vast plain, many miles by two, they found here and there with shallow ponds, seemed to be completely covered with the game of the American continent. Snipe in flocks, all the varieties of plover, including the rare and beautiful pink curlew, the ponds covered with myriads of wild fowl of every description, while high in air, almost beyond the reach of vision, would pass wedge-shaped flights of the magnificent whooping cranes.

A LETTER written in Rome at the end of last month says: "On Saturday I heard that an American Bishop made a characteristic exhibition. He deplored the general corruption of the clergy in Southern Italy, of all places in the world, and insisted on something being done to stop it. His remedy was that the people should select their own bishops. If, as is likely, the people are no better than their clergy, and indeed all are much of a muchness as to the matters of complaint, the American specific is doubtful. But they are most silent from the Governor of Maryland. This is alleged to be only one of several similar transactions by the same party.

Buy Jenkins & Bro's Snow Flake.

Every family should have this flour. Their name is in large letters on every barrel. †

To Strengthen the Stomach,

And give it tone, use C. F. Galton's Dyspepsia Remedy. TTuS*

SECOND EDITION.

4 O'CLOCK, A. M.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

French Journalists Sentenced to Fine and Imprisonment—Empress Eugenie Recovering—Fenian Demonstration at Cork Suppressed—Political Rights Conceded to Jews in Sweden—Carlist Outbreaks in Spain—Proceedings in Parliament—Bill to Promote Education Introduced.

Journalists Sentenced.

PARIS, February 17.—The trial of the editors of the *Revell*, the irreconcilable organ, for violation of the press law, has just been brought to a close. M. Delescluzes, the chief editor, was sentenced to imprisonment for thirteen months and to pay a fine of two thousand francs. M. Caran, another of the editors, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and two thousand francs fine.

Monument to Victor Noir.

The *Marseillaise* publishes a letter from a gentleman of Boston to Francis Vincent Raspail, in which he says he encloses fifty francs towards erecting a monument to Victor Noir.

Rochefort a Farce.

M. Baudin, of the *Rappel*, irreconcilable, publishes a letter from Victor Hugo to Henri Rochefort, calling him a farce.

Eugenie Recovering.

The Empress Eugenia has been seriously ill, but is now much better.

Increase in Specie.

The specie in the Bank of France has increased 100,000 francs the past week.

Fenian Demonstration Suppressed.

LONDON, February 17.—The Fenian demonstration which was announced to take place at Cork yesterday, was suppressed by the authorities.

English View of the Freedmen's Bureau.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* reviews the history of the Freedmen's Bureau in the United States, and after recounting the immense good it has accomplished, deplores its approaching end.

Indignation Meeting.

The merchants of Glasgow last evening held an indignation meeting, and denounced the present management of the new telegraph system.

Political Rights for Jews.

STOCKHOLM, February 17.—The Diet passed a law admitting Israelites and Jews to political rights. The King signed the law immediately.

Improved Demand for Our Goods.

AMSTERDAM, February 17.—It is generally thought the reduction of interest, by the banks here and elsewhere on the Continent, will create an improved demand for United States securities.

Imperial Decree.

PARIS, February 7.—The *Journal Officiel* publishes an imperial decree which, by request of the Minister of Justice, annuls the decree of 1852, giving the Court of Cassation the power of reporting to penal settlements parties who belong to secret political societies. The minister says the Assembly will be asked to pass a law incompatible with liberal government.

Sentences.

Gustave Flourens has been sentenced to six months imprisonment and 1,000 francs fine and Delescluze, editor of *La Marseillaise*, to two months imprisonment and five hundred francs fine, for publishing false news of the insurrection in Spain. Ten of the Carlists arrested during the late outbreak in the provinces are dissatisfied with the removal of the late Superintendent.

CINCINNATI.

An Exposition of Manufactures to be Held Next Fall—Kentucky State Officers to Visit the City.

CINCINNATI, February 17.—The Committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce with reference to holding a great exposition of manufactures and products in this city, held a meeting to-day and requested a similar committee of the Board of Trade. The project will doubtless be carried out. It is the intention to make this the greatest Industrial exhibition that has ever occurred in the West. Everything during the approaching fall.

The Governor of the General Assembly of Kentucky, with the Governor and staff, have accepted the invitation of the Council to visit Cincinnati, and will be here next Saturday. A committee of citizens of Cincinnati, Covington and Newport will proceed to Louisville to-morrow to receive them.

Shooting in Florida.

A party of New York sportsmen have just returned from a shooting excursion on the St. John's River, Florida. They went up the river in the immediate suburbs of Fernandina, that they would have been perfectly content to have remained there, without ascending the rarefied atmosphere of the capital, and that upon the coming on of so, but curious to see the country, they strolled down a few miles from the place, and there, on a small prairie, they found innumerable jacks and equally endless varieties of wading birds, and those would rise in clouds at every report of the guns. The sport lasted for several hours, and the party reluctantly returned to town to take the cars on the morrow. Fernandina, on a large prairie, close adjoining, they discovered a paradise for the sportsman and naturalist. On a vast plain, many miles by two, they found here and there with shallow ponds, seemed to be completely covered with the game of the American continent. Snipe in flocks, all the varieties of plover, including the rare and beautiful pink curlew, the ponds covered with myriads of wild fowl of every description, while high in air, almost beyond the reach of vision, would pass wedge-shaped flights of the magnificent whooping cranes.

STATE LEGISLATURES.

NEW YORK.

ALBANY, February 17.—In the Senate to-day, a report was made to enable the consolidation of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway with the American Baptist Publication Society.

TEXAS.

AUSTIN, Texas, February 17.—The Fifteenth Amendment has been adopted by both Houses.

Senate, by 27 to 2. House, by 49 to 16.

The Senatorial election is set for the 22d inst. General Throckmorton is mentioned by the elected, positively declines. The chances are in favor of Judge Ochiltree. C. Hamilton, ex-Lieutenant Governor Flanagan for the four year term, and some other Radical for the two year.

KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, February 17.—In the Senate today the report of the committee of nine, confidentiality of the Drake and Sumner bill regulating the jurisdiction of the United States Supreme Court in cases of appeal from courts of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad was postponed till Tuesday. Both Houses adjourned till Monday. After their visit to Louisville the members will go to Cincinnati.

OHIO.

COLUMBUS, February 17.—The bill increasing the salaries of the Supreme Judges of Ohio was indefinitely postponed in the House today. The bill providing for the sale of the State Agricultural College lands was defeated. The bill passed the House making the levy for State purposes for 1870 four mills on the dollar. This is one-half mill less than ever before.

MASSACHUSETTS.

BOSTON, February 17.—The Legislature today elected Hon. Charles Allen, Judge Hon. Joel Wheeler and Hon. Stephen N. Chase, by State Directors of the Boston and Albany Railroad, to serve 1 year.

GEORGIA.

ATLANTA, February 17.—In the Legislature to-day, the House concurred in the following State resolution:

Resolved, That all proceedings in the several courts of the State founded on any debt contracted prior to the 1st of April, 1865, and all sales by virtue of any execution so founded, shall be and

The Daily Commercial.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18, 1870.

From Harrisburg we have the pleasant piece of information that the expense of the Legislature this year will be at least one hundred thousand dollars less than last, which was forty thousand dollars less than the year previous. So much for the cry of retrenchment and reform, with which the COMMERCIAL stands charged from one end of the State to the other. In perfecting the appropriation bill let the friends of this policy scrutinize closely and put the knife in deep, so that every cent not absolutely essential to the public service will be saved.

THE bill providing for and directing the payment out of the State Treasury, of an indefinite sum to claimants for damages alleged to have been inflicted during the war on citizens of the southern border counties of our State, is viewed in all quarters as a gigantic swindle. Nevertheless it is strong in the Legislature. There is money in it, and it is alleged that it has been "set up." If it should pass it would take from three to five millions of dollars from the State Treasury, but a small part of which would ever go into the pockets of actual sufferers. Let us have the yeas and nays whenever there is a chance to put members of the Legislature on the record as to this monstrosity.

THE debate in the Senate between the conditionists and the antis, on the admission of the reconstructed States to representation, stretches to an apparently endless length. A vote was expected on the Mississippi bill on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, but was prevented by continued speechifying, and there is no telling when the question will be decided. Possibly before the end of the week, if a vote was not reached yesterday. Mr. WILLEY, of West Virginia, introduced a new element of discord on Wednesday. He occupied the position of being opposed to conditions, but as they were imposed on Virginia, he thought the same policy should be pursued towards Mississippi. Being taunted with inconsistency in this respect, Mr. WILLEY, to relieve himself of the charge, moved an amendment to the Mississippi bill to repeal so much of the Virginia act as declared the State admitted to representation on certain fundamental conditions. This was certainly turning the tables on his assailants, who advocated conditions. But the amendment complicates matters to a still greater extent, and affords a basis for more debate.

THEY precious fellow, A. G. HENRY, who presides over the Armstrong *Republican*, publishes a letter, which the silly "organ" here reproduces, written by Gen. IRWIN, commenting freely on public men and political affairs in general in this State. The object of the publication is to offset the letter which HENRY wrote to IRWIN, offering to sell himself body and soul, and betraying a depth of depravity of which the public but seldom, and only by some such means, obtain a glimpse. We must say that we have read Gen. IRWIN'S letter with decided interest and no little admiration. It is true that as a piece of composition it is not entirely correct, but as a private epistle showing the man and affording a pretty accurate standard whereby to judge him, it does him credit. We venture to say that by fair minded men generally the letter will be accepted as evidence of the earnest straight forwardness and perfect fidelity of the writer. As a dissertation on the personal politics of Pennsylvania, it shows that Gen. IRWIN is a close observer, and is possessed of a great deal of information; that he is a man of shrewdness, is instinctively correct in his judgments, and, taken in connection with recent events, is quite a match for his enemies.

NECESSITY FOR ENLARGED MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION.

It is now about half a century since a common impulse induced movements, in Pennsylvania and New York, toward facilitating intercourse between the East and the West. An Internal Improvement Convention was held in Harrisburg in the winter of 1820, composed of many enlightened citizens of the State, over which General MONTGOMERY, of Danville, presided. The agitation began in New York about the same time, and was kept up by the far-seeing wisdom of the immortal CLINTON, until it was crowned with that wonder of its day, the Erie Canal, stretching from the Lake to the Hudson. We were somewhat behind with our works. General MONTGOMERY, who would have been our CLINTON, died before plans for their prosecution could be matured. Nature was less propitious. Mountain ranges in one part, and in another a lack of water of sufficient elevation to supply a canal, presented difficulties which necessitated a composite work, part canal, part railway, of very costly construction, such as was finally opened between the Ohio and the Delaware; a monument in its day, of the liberal comprehension of commercial needs, as praiseworthy as that constructed in New York. Maryland and Virginia subsequently took part in the same system, and have derived great benefits from their canals. It was by this means that intercourse was sought to be assisted, having been before so difficult and costly as to retard the settlement of the West and prevent the growth of that commerce which has since quadrupled our eastern cities and given a rising impulse to the whole nation, such as the world never saw before.

These salutary arteries of trade have since been assisted in their benign effects, by the more facile agency of railroads, which have lately sprung into existence, and are spreading over our whole country in the progressive march of modern improvement. In our own State, we have an unequalled system, under a management prudent, wise and energetic; reaching into the far West, gathering thence the treasures flowing from prosperous commerce; stretching main trunk lines from the Ohio river and from Lake Erie to our flourishing eastern metropolis, from which numerous branches are extended, developing the resources of many sections of the State heretofore without the late improved methods of inter-communication.

Thus are we highly favored. But more perfectly to improve the advantages of our situation, a commodious navigation is needed to the lakes. In this all the railroad interests, as well as national, State and local interests, entirely concur. Such a practical extension of the water carriage of the contiguous inland seas of our continent, to our coal mines and manufactures, would be attended with vast local as well as general advantages. It is a grand conception—to unite by a capacious ship canal, through Western Pennsylvania, the twenty thousand miles of the navigable rivers penetrating the Mississippi Valley, with the great system of navigation formed by our immense lakes, so that five or six hundred ton vessels may safely navigate from Buffalo to New Orleans, or from Pittsburgh to Chicago, or to New York, through her widened canal, without breaking bulk. It requires an expanded view to realize the great importance of such a scheme as this to broad national interests. It not only shortens and cheapens water communication between the lakes and the rivers, but it invites more intercourse with the Eastern and Southern States, and assists in opening up their most remote resources to the benefits enjoyed before by only the more favored locations, where cheap and widely extended water transportation was at hand. Such a canal would be a grand artery connecting the hearts of two extensive but now separated commercial systems, so that they would beat in unison. The remotest veins would be quickened and feel the benefit of the combined influence.

The cities of the lakes which want their coal, and their iron and glass manufactures from us; their sugar and cotton from the South, would trade largely through this canal. While Pittsburgh and the other cities of the rivers, which want the lake copper and iron ores to smelt with our superior coal, and which want the heavy produce of the Northwest, not now transported by railroads, would trade through this canal. Every ponderous commodity would pass through it which could go cheapest in its six hundred ton boats. *The canal, in fact, would develope a trade in articles not now shipped on account of the cost of transportation.*

There can be no doubt of the fact, that there is a sufficiency of water for a ship canal, and such a grand scheme should not be postponed another year before we see the work actually begun. Lock chambers one hundred and fifty feet long, twenty five feet wide and nine feet deep, will be required to pass six hundred ton ships. Why not build the locks of those dimensions at once? Let us plan our improvements with a little more regard to the present, and the certainly increasing future demands of commerce upon them.

We have the experience of New York before us; one enlargement of her canal already made, and the people so much pleased with it, that they are about enlarging it again for six hundred ton boats, and some even want the canal declared *free*.

When we hear that the Bostonians are superceding American window glass with Belgian glass, which they are importing largely, it might be asked, why is it? Why, simply because the great American glass manufacturing center, and that is Pittsburgh, is hemmed in by such a transit tax on its heavy commodities that it cannot afford to take glass eastward. Thus it seems that transportation expenses consume all the margin left by the tariff on such imported manufactures. Most assuredly our prospects for competing successfully with foreigners depend greatly upon the cost of transportation.

With this ship canal constructed, we will take glass, iron and coal to Boston, in Pittsburgh built barges, and show our eastern brethern, and the Belgians too, what the interior of this country can do in the way of manufacturing.

Notwithstanding the abounding merits of this great enterprise, a few are found opposing it. But the interested character of their opposition is betrayed by their failing to find any substantial reasons against it. Their allegations about the lack of water and the impracticability of the work were shown to be but the empty pretexts of cavillers, and have been abandoned, leaving them nothing more tangible than the payment of the creditors of the present canal company, which they have strangely and ludicrously brought forward as a sufficient reason why the proposed enlargement should not be made.

It may be proper to add, that the sorry fomenters of this, the only opposition to the enlargement, are set on by the New York Central and the Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad Companies, actuated by narrow views, and by a mistaken comprehension of their own future interests. They fear a diversion and loss of freights by the canal, and are blind to the great increase of their own business, which would grow out of the general prosperity arising from the enlargement. Pittsburgh would thrive as she never yet has done; so would Erie and Buffalo, and all the towns upon the lakes; so would the country bordering upon the lakes and the canal, giving an impetus to business, and making these blind enemies fatten with prosperity in spite of themselves and their suicidal opposition.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHASE AND SECRETARY CHASE.

The difference with which the Legal Tender law has been viewed by Chief Justice CHASE and Secretary CHASE, provokes sharp criticism throughout the country to the disparagement of the former. The Chief Justice, at the time Secretary of the Treasury, was directly responsible for the laws providing for the issue of legal tender notes passed in 1862, and he was nominated to the Supreme Bench to give support to the principles he had avowed in maintaining the constitutionality of such laws.

The circumstances under which resort was had to the legal tender laws were peculiar. The delusion that the war was an affair of sixty days had been dispelled; foreign nations were unfriendly; the Confederate loan had been supported abroad and ours rejected; the banks which had taken the last three loans informed the Government of their inability to take more. There was an army in the field numbering over half a million of men, and no means for its support existed. This was the condition of affairs. A legal tender bill was pending in Congress, but its passage was doubtful. The Ways and Means Committee complained to Mr. SEWARD that they were embarrassed from want of Mr. CHASE'S support. A conference between the two Cabinet Ministers followed, which resulted in a letter addressed by the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. CHASE, to the Committee, in which the distress of the country was stated most urgently. This letter was to influence the House. It bears date February 3, 1862, and this extract is contained in it: "Immediate action is of great importance. The "Treasury is nearly empty. I have been "obliged to draw for the last instalment of "the November loan; so soon as it has been "paid I fear the banks generally will refuse "to receive the United States notes. You "will see the necessity of urging the bill "through without more delay."

After thus setting forth the necessity of the proposed legislation, Mr. CHASE wrote "it is true that I came with reluctance to "the conclusion that the legal tender act is a "necessity, *but I came to it decidedly and I support it earnestly.*" The bill was not immediately passed, and Mr. CHASE again, on the 15th of February, in a letter to Mr. SPAULDING, wrote: "It is very important the "bill should go through to-day, and through "the Senate this week. The public exigencies do not admit of delay."

On the strength of this letter Mr. SPAULDING said in the House, "I have within the "last two or three hours received a note "from the Secretary of the Treasury, informing me that it is absolutely necessary that "we should press this measure to a vote "without further delay. Therefore I move "that the Committee rise, with a view of "closing debate." The motion was agreed to, and the succeeding day the bill passed the House of Representatives; ayes 93, nays 54.

This was the first legal tender law. But after it had been tried, and found to work advantageously, Mr. CHASE on the 7th of June, 1862, called for an additional act, authorizing the issue of $150,000,000 more—of this sum $35,000,000 to be of denominations less than five dollars—and "that these be made a *legal tender for* DEBTS, "except interest on loans," etc.

This statement of facts places the responsibility of the Chief Justice for the law which he has decided, in part, to be valueless, in a clear and unmistakable light. His inconsistency is palpable. And quoting the language of a reviewer, "his change of position must be referred to the same set of "circumstances which made him seek to be "the candidate of the Democracy against "the great soldier who by means of the "legal-tender act wielded our forces with "success."

HON. HENRY L. DAWES having been invited to speak in New Hampshire before the March election, replies to the invitation of E. A. Rollins, Chairman of the State Committee, as follows:

I will make arrangements to speak in the State before election. Economy and reform are to be secured only by keeping in power the Republican party. The President and Congress will unite in diminishing the expenditure and taxes while maintaining the public faith and reducing the national debt, and the labor reform movement, which strives to defeat the Republican party, will only injure the interests of the labor ng classes and lead to place in power their worst enemies.

The labor reform party in New Hampshire have entered upon a canvass of the State. Their candidate for Governor, Mr. Flint, made a speech at Concord on Tuesday evening, taking ground in favor of paying the bonds in currency. If this was not agreed to he threatened repudiation.

THE Baltimore and Ohio and the Camden and Amboy Companies are combining to defeat the bills before Congress chartering railroads from Washington to New York, to Pittsburgh and to Cincinnati. Of the passage of these bills through the Senate there is not much doubt, but the House will be the battle ground. The constitutional objections heretofore urged against measures of this description have nearly disappeared before the discussion which the question has received, and though they may not succeed, there is scarcely a doubt that at no distant day they will go through to the great relief of the people.

AN interoceanic canal treaty has been concluded between the representatives of the Colombian and the United States governments. The terms of the treaty have not yet been made public, but it is said that they are more favorable to Colombia than those of the former one. The Congress of Colombia was to have met on the 1st of February, and, as the treaty was the first business to be considered, we expect to learn of its ratification in a short time. The United States canal surveying expedition is now at the Isthmus.

THE Pennsylvania Coal Company, having its office at Weehawken, New Jersey, announces a great reduction in the price of coal, and offer to deliver it anywhere in that place for 84 75 per ton, meaning by that 2,240 pounds. The price charged in Philadelphia is still $8 or $8 50 per ton of that weight. Philadelphia very naturally wishes to know the reason for the difference.

PHILADELPHIA proposes to pay liberally for music in its common schools. The expenditure is justified on the ground of the elevating and refining influence of music, and that it is the essential part of a child's education. Who doubts that if music were to be taught as generally and thoroughly as in Germany, the time would not be long when scarcely an opposer would be found to the expense?

ABOUT NEW BOOKS.

Entitled to a very high place among books suitable for presents, either in the holidays or at any other time, is *Roberts Brothers' illustrated edition of the Midsummer Night's Dream.* It is a book difficult to describe, even an art connoisseur would probably find it not easy, in the absence of the volume, so to write or speak about it as to convey a just notion of its excellence. The entire text of Shakspeare's drama is given, and there are twenty-four designs, done in the Silhouette style, by Paul Konewka, a meritorious German artist. What is called the Silhouette style, we may as well candidly confess that we do not much admire, but multitudes whose taste in art is entitled to more respect than ours differ from us as to its advantages. In regard to these specimens of the style there seems to be great unanimity among the critics, most pronouncing them truly admirable, and some of them appeal very strongly to the imagination of people who have paid little attention to the art. The design on the title page, an ideal picture of Helena, is within the appreciation of every person who has an eye for the beautiful, and few, we fancy, who study the poem will look upon it with disappointment.

Since the purpose of calling a general council was first broached, many pens have been busy, many articles and books have appeared with the avowed object of influencing the future a collection of these multifarious writings shall be made, any competent reader will doubtless be deeply impressed with the amount of ability and learning which has been expended in elucidation of the theme. At present, in the general recollection of these writings as they have been published and discussed, there can be no doubt as to the pre-eminence due to one of them in particular. A mastery of the subject, in power of statement, and in the impression produced by the work, both among Catholics and Protestants *The Pope and the Council* by *Janus* stands out conspicuous among the books of its class. The influence exerted by it in several countries reminds us of the vast effects brought about in a single country by some of the celebrated pamphlets, in the days when pamphleteering was a mode. And yet the style and spirit of this volume are not the style and spirit of the old fashioned publications of which it reminds us. Its chief authorship is ascribed, we believe correctly, to the most learned Roman Catholic historian in Germany. Janus is certainly a Catholic, though it would be a misuse of the term to call him a Papist. And there is nothing in the temper of the book inconsistent with the Catholic piety of the author. Without ill nature, or unworthy passion of any kind, and with absolute command of the requisite materials, he reviews the entire history of the Papacy, summoning and marshalling facts and arguments illustrative of the bottomless character of the claim of personal infallibility and of the inexpediency of its proclamation. Incidental to this main scope many other topics are discussed. It is a truly remarkable book, full of entertainment as well as instruction. Written originally in German, it has been skillfully translated into the principal European languages, and has been widely read. Though answered at Rome by insertion in the Expurgatory Index, even the Jesuit journals, we are told, have usually spoken of the book with respect. Roberts Brothers, of Boston, are its American publishers.

A careful perusal of the productions of Janus is well adapted to inspire the reader with a desire to pursue still farther some of the topics treated too briefly, or with exclusive reference to the controversial object of the work. The curiosity thus excited may find ample gratification in a book which has lately appeared, of which the author and publisher is Mr. Henry Cleire, of Philadelphia. Its relation to the work of Janus is indicated by the motto on the title page, three lines from the Inferno of Dante, lines translated by Milton:

Ah Constantine! of how much ill was cause
Not thy conversion, but those rich domains
That the first wealthy Pope received of thee.

The title of Mr. Lea's work is *Sketches in Church History.* The first study or essay contains an account of the "Rise of the Temporal Power of the Popes." It records the establishment of principles of which the subsequent development is traced in the succeeding essays on "The Benefit of Clergy" and on "Excommunication." We can do nothing more than direct the attention of our readers to these truly learned and masterly "Studies," and we wish it were in our power to do so in such a manner as to induce them to procure and examine the book for themselves. We can confidently assure all who have any taste for historical study, or who feel any intelligent interest in the actual condition of Christendom, that in this volume they will find a copious collection of facts stated with admirable clearness, and so arrayed as to throw a strong light upon the present. Those who know anything of Mr. Lea's former works, or of his character as a scholar, do not need to be informed that there is no rubbish in the book. His learning is not "under learning;" he does not "take the eel of science by the tail." His pages are not crowded with citations from erudite Germans who have read his authorities for him. Evidently the author of these Studies, by independent reading and research, is at home among the old books from which most of his materials are derived. Hence his power of selecting the facts essential to the elucidation of the matter in hand, and his power of rejecting superfluous matter.

The subject of these studies will probably seem to most readers less interesting, or rather less entertaining than the subjects of Mr. Lea's former works. But in precision and vivacity of statement it is not inferior to them. Properly viewed, the abuses of ecclesiastical power in the past are quite as interesting as, and more important than the exemplifications of "superstition and force," or the "Historical Sketch of Sacerdotal Celibacy," the subjects of those books. It is proper to add that this work traces the subject of excommunication among the Reformed churches as well as in the Church of Rome.

In characterizing Mr. Lea as we have done, we must not be understood as proclaiming or intimating any discovery of our own. Some may note, though it is true, that in Europe and in the highest quarters, this Pennsylvania scholar has long been recognized as a great master of research, and as a writer of very distinguished merits.

Since the war the attention of many Northern people has been turned towards Florida, some with the view of becoming permanent settlers, still more with the purpose of seeking health in the delightful climate. Both these classes will find useful information and also entertainment in a book by Ledyard Bill, lately published by Wood & Holbrook, of New York. Its title is *A Winter on Florida.* After a succinct outline of the history of the State, and with inklings of adventure here and there throughout, the author lays before his readers in simple, unpretending language various observations on the soil, climate and products of our semi-tropical State, and sketches of the principal towns and cities in East Florida. It contains also hints to the tourist, invalid and sportsman. It is a useful book.

Few learned books are so readable as a little volume with the title *The Wise Men; who were they; and how they came to Jerusalem? by Francis Upham, LL. D.*, Professor of Mental Philosophy in Rutgers Female College, city of New York. It is, in fact, a monograph on the verse near the beginning of Mathew's Gospel, which mentions certain wise men (magi) who came from the East to Jerusalem. Dr. Upham believe, and says much to justify his belief, that the word *magi* is there used in its historical and favorable sense, to denote disciples of Zoroaster, from Persia. Having established this view, which is by no means new or heretical, he proceeds to impart a vast deal of very useful and interesting information about the magi. "The meaning of the word East' in the Evangelist's language," the character and religion of the Persians," "Daniel and the magi," are the titles of some of the chapters. No person who is a pleasing, the study of the New Testament can fail to like this book, while to Sunday-school teachers it will afford a fund of really valuable knowledge for the edification of their classes. It is published by Sheldon & Co.

Many of the most excellent works on the subject of practical religion do not possess the recommendation of a pleasing or correct style. Litterateurs, imperfectly informed on the subject, have sometimes laid in the broad charge of bad taste against this class of works in general, nor have they found the task difficult to give a color of justice to the allegation by quotations from pious books held in reverence by sects of the most opposite principles and tendencies. The truth is that religious writers have often been so impressed with the importance of the thoughts which they had to communicate as to be almost indifferent to their expression. And many of the books written in this spirit, always have been and always will be widely read in spite of literary defects. It is, however, unidoubtedly desirable that such books of devotion should be well written, by this meaning, that their style should be such as to recommend them to cultivated, or fastidious tastes. Within the present century many books entitled to this praise have been produced by English and American writers. Among these the works of Dean Goulburn, D. D., hold a high rank. Appleton & Co. have lately brought out in a convenient form his *Pursuit of Holiness; a sequel to Thoughts on Personal Religion.* Upon a slight examination it seems to us equally admirable in style and in thought.

All readers of poetry, and especially all admirers of Tennyson's poetry, will, of course, at once buy or borrow *The Holy Grail and other Poems*, the latest productions of the most popular of English poets. The completion of the poems embodying the Arthurian Legends has long been impatiently looked for both in England and in this country, and time enough has elapsed since the appearance of *The Holy Grail* to show that the general expectation in regard to the excellence of the poem has not been disappointed. Over the water, it is considered as a success upon the whole. Fields, Osgood & Co., are the publishers.

IT is proposed in Congress to increase the salary of the Chief Justice of the United States to something less than the Mayor of Pittsburgh, the Sheriff of Allegheny county, and the Clerk of the License Court receive from their respective offices. The bill proposes $12,600 for the Chief Justice, $10,000 for each Justice, $6,500 for the Circuit Judges and $5,000 for the District Judges. We hope this bill will pass, although it would be improved by an increase to the Circuit and District Judges. No lawyer of eminence enough in his profession to be intrusted with the interpretation and administration of the laws of the United States ought to be asked to abandon his private practice for the service of the state upon an income of less than $10,000.

Professor Ford, who does the traveling for Mark Twain's "Round the World" letters, says he asked a Chinaman how he liked this country. The answer was, "Melica belly good place—catchee heap money—in China no can catchee."

"WIGWAG."

The McClure-Cameron Imbroglio.

McClure "Interviewed"—He is Ready to Answer any Responsible Denial of His Charges Against Cameron.

From the Philadelphia Telegraph.

This morning the *Post* of this city indulged in a three column editorial, divided about equally between eulogy of Senator Cameron and abuse of Colonel McClure in connection with the letter from the latter published by us on Saturday last, relating to the circumstances under which the former emigrated from the War Office to Russia in the early part of 1862. Other denials of the statements made by Col. McClure have also appeared in the Washington dispatches of several papers, but as yet Senator Cameron has not seen fit to make a denial over his own signature. Having received further communication upon the subject from Col. McClure, one of our reporters was dispatched to his office this morning to ascertain if possible his intentions in reference to the dispute, when the following colloquy took place:

Reporter—Do you intend to answer the denials made in the newspapers of the correctness of your letter in the Lincoln Cabinet recently published in the *Telegraph*?

McClure—I will answer as soon as there is a denial from any reliable source.

Reporter—Have you seen the Washington dispatches in the *Telegraph* and *Press* on the subject?

McClure—Yes. The *Press* dispatch is ingeniously framed to deceive; to appear to deny the truth of my allegations, while it does not in fact deny any of them. It quotes Chase as saying that "the records of the Cabinet of Mr. Lincoln, at that time, would substantiate the truth of Senator Wilson's article relative to General Cameron." I doubt not that the records of the Cabinet show that Cameron resigned, as does the correspondence prepared after his dismissal. My allegation is that the Cabinet records and the correspondence do not truthfully represent the facts of the case. Col. Forney knows better himself.

Reporter—I see that Cameron pronounces your statements false.

McClure—I doubt not that he does so; he cannot well do otherwise, for he has labored most industrously for eight years to state history falsely as to his removal from the Lincoln Cabinet. He will not, and dare not, deny any material part of my statement in his place in the Senate, or over his own signature. Until it is so denied by some responsible person, who can assume to speak from personal knowledge, I shall not discuss the discussion of the subject. General Cameron is in power. Around him are men high in position, whose names are already before the public in connection with this controversy, and if I am wrong it is for them to make the controvert my statement. I did not intrude the subject upon the public, but Senator Wilson did, and if he is right, the evidence is accessible for him any day.

Reporter—Did you see the article in the *Post* of this morning?

McClure—No; is the *Post* still published?

Reporter—Yes; it has an editorial of three columns disputing your letter.

McClure—I have only to say that I cannot be diverted from the responsible facts in this controversy to engage in disputation with irresponsible editors of obscure journals. Cameron could desire no happier escape from the real issue than that.

Reporter—Then for the present you have nothing more to give to the public?

McClure—No. Whenever my letter is contradicted in any material point by any of the parties named in the controversy, I will be fully prepared to prove what I have asserted beyond all possibility of dispute.

And so the matter rests for the present.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The specular iron ores of Pilot Knob are roasted at the charcoal furnaces in piles, each containing about 2,000 to 3,000 tons, and burning six weeks. The bottom of such a pile is made of sticks of wood, laid about five feet apart, and closely covered with other sticks cross-wise. Upon this bed are spread alternately layers of ore about 18 inches thick, and of coal-dust 4 to 6 inches thick. The ore is broken to small lumps. Roasted ore is dark blue, and composed of concentric shells, which inclose a kernel. This kernel is commonly rather raw; when well burnt it is brownish in hue.

The earnings of the Erie Railway for the first week in February show an increase of $3,02?, as compared with the corresponding period of 1869. Of this sum over $25,000 is due to increased receipts in the item of coal tonnage The earnings of Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad during the first week in February, 1870, were $239,986, and in 1869, $215,883, an increase of $23,403. The earnings of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad for the same period show an increase of $4,852, while those of the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad show an increase of $28,019.

The Illinoise constitutional convention has decided to make the sessions of the Legislature biennial. The organization of the two houses thereof is modeled after that of Vermont, the Lieutenant Governor presiding in the senate, and the Secretary of State calling the House together and presiding till it elects a Speaker. Members are also forbidden to hold other civil office during their terms of service and to have any interest in any State or county contract authorized during the session in which they serve.

The two rival Chinese theaters in San Francisco, the See Yup and the Hung Chien Guen, have had a row. The Hung Chien Guen brought out a sensational drama six months long, that took all the patronage from the See Yup; and the other night the See Yup managers mustered all the ex-railroad constructors in town and proceeded to clear out the rival establishment. It was partially successful.

The Honolulu *Gazette*, of Jan. 12, says that the volcanic Mauna Loa shows considerable activity. A dense smoke was constantly issuing from it, and several times flames had been seen in the night. The crater of Kilauea was comparatively inactive, although it was observable that the smoke issuing from the crevices in and about the crater was much more dense than it has hitherto been known to be.

A Belgian, named Thirion, has designed a new aerial machine. It consists of a pair of parallel boards, furnished with sails, and connected by jointed rods. Movement is obtained by the opening and shutting of the sails and the approximation and shutting of the rods. The action is kept up by a small steam engine, which is placed in the back part of the construction.

One of those haughty Southern women who fled to Brazil when the rebellion was crushed, has written back a heartfelt appeal for aid, saying: "If the American government mean to take us home, hurry and do so, or it will have the dying curse of slaves upon its arms. For God's sake take the unfortunate, deceived people out of here while they are able to walk."

FROM GEORGE HERBERT.

Sweet day, so calm, so cool, so bright,
The bridal of the earth and sky.
The dew shall weep thy fall to-night.
For thou must die.

Only a sweet and virtuous soul,
Like season'd timber, never gives,
But though the whole world turn to coal,
Then chiefly lives.

At Sterling (Ill.) a crazy man on being thwarted in his attempt to get aboard of the Pacific train about leaving, mounted an engine standing near, and pulled open the valve. The engine dashed on after the train, but by the end of the switch, but its velocity was too great to allow it to turn upon the main track, and, turning off, buried itself in the earth. Had not the engineer's intention been thus thwarted we would undoubtedly have been called to record one of the most dreadful calamities of the day.

At the late convention in Boston, Mr. Garrison took up Mr. Bushnell's "Reform against Nature." Quoting Dr. Bushnell's "Man has a look of thunder," he observes smilingly, "Whereas John Doe looks like thunder he has a right to vote; and whereas his wife looks like a new-blown rose she hasn't."

There are two hundred and fifty thousand negroes in Maryland, including fifty thousand children. Last year the sum contributed for the education of this quarter of a million of people was less than $1,000, or to be exact, $961 27. Of this sum the counties of Frederick and Washington, where there are many Republicans, comparatively, gave $635, or more than two-thirds.

THE murder of a few more Americans in Cuba will create a feeling throughout the Union against Spain that no administration and no code of neutrality laws will be effective to restrain. Greenwald, who was butchered in Havana, for wearing a blue coat, has been brought back to New York on Tuesday and buried on Wednesday. When his friends sought for his remains in Havana, they found that the Spanish authorities had thrown his body in that part of the graveyard reserved to paupers and malefactors, and that he had been buried uncoffined and stark naked. When murdered, Mr. Greenwald had on new and fine clothing. This had all been stolen by the Spaniards. Since the killing of Castanon at Key West, twenty-five persons have been murdered by the Spanish volunteers in Havana. The most conspicuous of all these twenty-five murders, committed with perfect impunity by the volunteers, is that of Senor Felipe Valdes, foreman of the car shop of the Havana and Matanzas Railroads. On Sunday night, the 6th inst., this gentleman was called from his house and the company of a young wife and five children by half a dozen volunteers, taken off a short distance, and shot. His lifeless body was found the next morning with three mortal wounds. His only offense was being Cuban born.

THE tariff "reformers" say that we must stop manufacturing at home, and commence buying abroad if we would get cheap iron. Let us see. In 1847–8, at the close of a protective period, the product was 800,000 tons, which fell, under a lower tariff, to 564,000 tons in 1850, and only reached 754,000 tons in 1854. In 1850 railroad bars were sold at $50 a ton by the foreigners, *to close up our mills*, and in 1853 and 1854 *eleven hundred thousand tons of pig iron was imported and sold at $36 to $37 per ton*, and this high price could be had because home competition was broken down by a low tariff. Experience has shown that as soon as the foreigners get us in their power they will put up the price of everything, and precisely this is the game that Mr. Wells and his followers, rather masters, are playing. Who is ready to give it his sanction?

BUSINESS circles in Baltimore are now much excited over the failure of the well known dry goods firm of Howland, Cole & Co. The standing of the individual members of the firm was such that unlimited confidence was reposed in them, and the failure was as unexpected as it was disastrous. Their total liabilities are estimated at $1,267,682, and the failure involves the ruin of several smaller houses, as well as a number of individuals holding Howland, Cole & Co.'s paper. It is said that the most desperate expedients were adopted to sustain them, and the disaster which its failure produced is greatly enhanced in consequence. Nearly $100,000 of the debts of the house are owing to merchants of New York city.

A general order, promulgated from the War Department, provides that hereafter no volatile oils will be issued for illuminating purposes at military posts, and all varieties of coal oil will be regarded as volatile. In general land oil will be supplied for issues of oil authorized for the necessary illumination of military posts. But the wells keep pumping and flowing just as though there was no War Department.

LIFE INSURANCE.

Answer of "C. A." to "A. A."

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

In attempting to elicit the truth in the subject of Life Insurance, I cannot conceive what "A. A." has to do with the writer's example. He has no need of knowing the writer, to enable him to candor to grapple with the subject. We both have been edified with sound truth, without a knowledge of the writers, even if their example was the reverse of the truth set forth. If "A. A." refers to common insurance, we say it is connected with the every day duties of life, a means to a right end; as paying taxes, or one to watch your warehouse, fields or flocks. It is universal benevolence; if one member suffers all suffer with it. It is to aid each other in the duties of this life, not to foster and bolster up our pride when we have left these mortal shores. By confidence in business we have the property of others in our hands, which we are required to protect. As in Life Insurance, it does not contravene any promise of Holy writ, as "Leave your fatherless children with me, and let the widows trust in me."

We have avoided directly any remarks against Life Insurance. If I warn my friends not to go into your gambling hell, the proprietor has no authority to find fault with me. If I am called to meet a fearful rush for the door, I confine myself to the inherent evils of Life Insurance, which might occasion a fearful alarm and rush, leading to policy holders, from many events which have transpired.

"A. A." refers to a man being better than a sheep. The earth was made for man—the Sabbath, cattle, sheep, flocks, all for man. Man as the image of God is to be respected even when debased by sin; therefore we do not want man to be placed upon a par with a sheep as a means; to be examined by a physician as an article of merchandise or an object of a cold, speculating spirit.

The writer was a witness to the following scene: An agent took a sidepiece at a policy holder, with his hand jocularly placed on the shoulder of the person, and remarked, smilingly, "You are doing very well; you will hold on some time yet." Self-respect should forbid an examination of your person, habits, etc., watched by agents. The most charitable construction we can place on "A. A.'s" charge, that we have uncharched Christians; that we have charged those who hold policies with being materialists and infidels, is that the mists of prejudice or excited feelings have covered his vision. He would insinuate that we have arrogated to ourself, the position of Christ, in 11th chapter of Luke, 42d, 43d, 44th verses, which we disclaim. If so, it is gratuitous on his part, and if he assumes the position of the lawyer in the 45th verse, it is a voluntary assumption on his part, not warranted by any intent of the writer. We disclaim any such feelings, neither can such a spirit be properly construed from the two articles.

We have not aimed at persons, but injurious principles. We only referred to what is tending to swell materialism and infidelity. It is admitted, by intelligent Christians generally, that practical infidelity is prevalent in the church, and clogging the wheels of the Gospel car. We could spread before the public not only the evils arising from Life Insurance, but in various other enterprises of life. Mr. Editor, if you give me the space of two of your columns, I would spread the whole subject of Life Insurance before you. There is another writer in Cincinnati, having these same views on the subject—a venerable missionary to the Indians; so I am not alone. G. A.

VARIETIES.

A man in an Indiana saw mill was lately skinned alive to his great delight, after the following fashion: His coat-tail was caught by the revolving shaft, when clasping his arms about a post, he hung on, and let her rip. When the operation was complete, which was in a twinkling, he avers he never felt better in all his life.

The Louisville *Commercial* says: "On the Louisville and Knoxville branch the road is completed five miles beyond Mount Vernon, and the bridge men are building the trestles across Roundstone, Rockcastle county. Construction trains are running to that point. The coal region is now entered, and local points are being supplied with coal of the mines in this section. Although the coal is inferior to that of Pennsylvania, it will take the place of the imported article in the interior towns, on account of its cheapness."

The father and mother of Victor Noir have sued Pierre Bonaparte for civil damages for his murder, fixing the amount at one franc. Commenting on this, the Cincinnati *Times* says there are journalists in that city whose scalps would be dear at one franc—an opinion fully warranted by the manner the Cincinnati journalists conduct their discussions.

Washington Jenkins says: "In his domestic relations the President is treated with the utmost deference and respect. Mrs. Grant insists that whatever may be the proper homage for him to receive on public occasions is none the less proper in the privacy of his own family circle. Thus he is always addressed as 'Mr. President,' and referred to as the 'President,' and the servants are strictly enjoined to observe this mark of distinction." The arrant nonsense of this will be testified to by hundreds who know that Mrs Grant's habit is to speak, and of the President as "Mr. Grant," or sometimes "the General." The President preserves the same simple manners in his family as when the White House was as distant as it is from the most humble citizen.

A just published letter of Thaddeus Stevens says: "I have always been a firm believer in the Bible. He is a fool who disbelieves the existence of a God, as you say is charged on me. I also believe in the existence of a hell for the especial benefit of this slanderer. I was raised a Baptist, and adhere to their belief." Considering that Thaddeus was a very hard sinner, not to speak of other foibles, perhaps our Baptist friends wish more care had been taken in his raising.

Mr. Carpenter goes the whole figure for the Cubans.—*Exchange.*

The precise "figure," the enemies of Carpenter say, is found on the bonds which the Cubans are negotiating wherever they get a chance.

Mr. Palmer, the celebrated Arabic scholar, has gone to explore the vicinity of Mount Sinai for legends which are still believed to exist there, concerning the passage of the Israelites.

Miss Lydia Thompson is the victim of persecution from one of her own sex, who, having fallen desperately in love with her, pursues her every where, besieging her on her every residence in her power of her ardent passion. In a word she is loved as by a man, by a woman. In St. Louis this lover gained Miss Thompson's room. Once in her room she charged Miss Thompson with being false to her, and treated her to a dramatic monologue of great length and vigor. Finally she thrust another ring upon her astonished auditor, and on her refusal to take it, threw it violently in her face. Miss Thompson rang for assistance, and the unhappy lady was forcibly taken down stairs, put in a hack and conveyed to her own hotel.

Cassius M. Clay is manufacturing candles in Connecticut of a new fangled dip which he brought from Russia. This is the first time he has been usefully employed within the memory of man.

The "poor people" of Massachusetts have an idea about being prepared for a rainy day, as appears from their savings bank deposits. The amount now exceeds $114,999,000, and this sum with the surplus earnings of the savings banks is double the appraised value of all the railways in the State, and exceeding by $35,000,000 the capital of all the banks. Seven are nearly one hundred and thirty thousand depositors in Boston alone, representing $33,-102,964. Each depositor, if the amount were to be equally divided, would have $256; and if were to be equally divided among the entire population of the State, each man, woman and child would have at least $80.

John Randolph once wrote: "Form no intimacies with your neighbors under seven years' acquaintance. The rigid observance of this one maxim preserved me from strife and from loss by these. With the rest I was on the best of terms." If all we read of him be true, it is probable that John's neighbors felt deeply obliged to him for acting up to his own idea of "intimacies."

The Chicago *Republican* thinks that Brigham Young ought to have a revelation forbidding polygamy. But there is really no use for such a revelation. An act of Congress will do just as well.—*Louisville Courier.*

Sheridan and his chosen "saints," mounted, would give the old reprobate new ideas of revelation, and the safety of his own hide.

Education on the Eastern Shore of Maryland is in such a flourishing condition that the scholars in a certain place in that interesting region lately undertook to lynch a school master for teaching "niggers." What the "niggers," some time or other, will do about it, is a question which the very liberal and intelligent white lynchers would do well to take into consideration. The Fifteenth Amendment is as good as adopted, which will make all the difference in the world in some places and with some communities.

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For sale at Par and Accrued Interest from October 1st

IRA B. M'VAY & CO.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

THURSDAY EVENING, February 17, 1870.

There was nothing unusual in the local money market to cause any change in its late condition. It was observed that there is an absence of any great urgency for money on the part of borrowers at the present time, owing to a lack of any speculative feeling in the departments of trade. Business paper is scarce, and a good proportion of the offerings at bank is in the shape or acceptances, which are discounted at a higher rate than other bills, and are preferred on that account, when presented in an acceptable shape.

It is pertinently remarked that if Congress be wise, it will in our monetary matters "let well enough alone," and not venture upon the "dangerous and unnecessary experiment of again inflating the currency." We are getting along well. During the year that is passed, gold has gone down fifteen per cent; money at all business centers is easy; business paper is readily discounted at the banks at 7 ₰ cent., and the fall in the price of gold has not disturbed in the least any possible degree our commercial or our greater industrial interests. Our financial condition is healthy; we are gradually but surely reaching the hour when the National Bonds will be funded into coin at the will of the holder. Don't tinker the currency!

—Although the Government bond market has not shown any great change of late, yet there is a strong undertone to the market, and the advance in London on Monday was caused by purchases there to sell in New York. The *World* says: The amount of five-twenty bonds bought in London and sold here within the last few days is estimated at $2,000,000. The "Treasury Department ring," it is stated, have sold about $5,000,000 five-twenties short. The low prices of five-twenty bonds have been forced by these sales of about $5,000,000, and other shorts, making a total of over $8,000,000 five-twenty bonds thrown on the market during the last few days. The whole amount was absorbed by the general demand from investors, which was attracted by the low prices.

Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., report the following quotations of government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Close.
U. S. Bonds '81	117¾	118	117¾
U. S. Bonds '62	114¾	115¾	115
U. S. Bonds '64	114¾	115¾	115
U. S. Bonds '65, 1865	114¾	115¾	115¼
U. S. Bonds '67	113¾	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds '68	113¾	115¾	115¾
10-40s	112¾	113¾	113¾
Gold	119¾	119¾	119¾

James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

	Feb. 16.	Feb. 17.	Adv.	Dec.
Gold	119	119¾	...	¾
U. S. Bonds, 1881	117¾	117¾	...	...
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '62	114¾	115	¼	...
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '64	114¾	114¾	...	...
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '65	114¾	114¾	¼	...
U. S. Bonds, new iss. '65	114¾	114¾	...	...
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s '67	113¾	113¾	...	...
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '68	113¾	113¾	...	...
U. S. Bonds, 10-40s	112¾	112¾	...	¼
U. S. Currency	111½	111½	...	...

—The Nashville *Republican Banner*, of February 15, has the following interesting exposure of the fraud practised by the operators on the New York Stock Exchange, who recently jumped the new Tennessee bonds from 40 to 55:

It will be seen by a statement in our financial dispatch from New York that the new issue of Tennessee bonds sold there to the fully four cents yesterday. The movement is ascribed to dispatches announcing that one branch of our General Assembly had already passed a bill to sell the State's interest in delinquent railroads, and that the other branch would follow suit. This rare piece of news was of course sent by some "bulling" into the market, and is totally at variance with the facts, as any one who has read our Legislative reports for the past few days must be fully aware. Nor is there any indication that such a policy will be adopted by our Legislature, but rather the reverse. If the operators in Tennessee bonds didn't know it, they ought to pretty deep yesterday, we are very much mistaken.

—The *Herald* in its notice of the stock market says: The stock market was again buoyant and active. The ease in the money market and the success which has so far attended the bullish operations of the cliques seem to have allayed all distrust of a decline and rendered the public reckless of the real value of investments at the Stock Exchange. The steady upward tendency of the market only proves what has been so frequently made manifest in Wall street, viz., that the current of speculation having once set in little or no regard is had for the intrinsic merit of what is "bought for a rise." It took the market two or three months to get rid of the debris of the wreck in September. With the new year the upward took courage and laid in vast loads of stocks at the then low prices. Since that time prices have advanced 10 to 25 ₰ cent. And new an invitation is extended to the public to "come in." There is not a clique in the street which could not sell at an immense profit at present prices, but there seems little or no reaction since the movement began. It is no part of the plans of these speculative combinations to keep prices steadily advancing. They wish the public to buy, and then, staggering under the load, will back to the cliques at a heavy decline. There is little doubt that any one with purse enough to stand such a decline would realize a profit at present prices, because the cliques will, before it is many days, have a reaction in the market. But small margins are likely to be wiped out by a long-continued dropping of the market. Nor is it advisable to make speculative sales; for as the cliques possess the great bulk of the stocks they would be gratified just as much by such "short" sales as by purchases, as they would then be rewarded the prevailing sentiment of the public they are ready to take advantage of it either way. The first signs of the unloading process were visible to-day in Reading, which, after being worked up to 95¾, was "plumped" to the street by the armful, the transactions comprising at least 50,000 shares, which were disposed of to good advantage, the price falling to 97¾, because Reading is "no reliable" an old stock, and those who were reluctant to buy above 99 eagerly bought at any fraction below that figure until the clique got rid of their load to remarkably good advantage.

—The following sale, made up from dispatches received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock Rooms, Apollo Building, No. 80 Fourth avenue, shows the prices of Railway Stocks, Gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Boards during the day:

	10 00.	11 30 A M	12 12 P M	1 30 P M	3 30 P M
New York Central	198¾	198	198	198¾	198¾
Erie	26¾	27¼	27¼	27¼	27¼
Harlem	146¾	148	...	...	148
Reading	96	97¾	97¾	97¾	97¾
Michigan Central	...	121	...	121	...
Michigan Southern	88¾	89¼	89¼	89¼	89¼
Illinois Central	...	143	...	...	...
Cleveland and Pittsburgh	102¼	103¼	102	...	...
Chicago and Northwestern	74	73¾	73¾	73¾	73¾
Do preferred	90¾	91¼	91¼	91¼	91¼
Rock Island	122¼	123¼	122¾	122¾	122¾
St. Paul	...	66¼	...	66¼	66¼
St. Paul preferred	...	80¾	...	80¾	80¾
Toledo and Wabash	...	47¾	...	47¾	...
Toledo and Wabash pref	...	71¾	...	...	...
Fort Wayne	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾
Chicago and Alton	...	116¾	...	115¾	...
Ohio and Mississippi	...	30¾	...	30¾	...
Western Union Telegraph	...	34¾	...	34¾	34¾
Pacific Mail	...	87¾	...	87¾	...
Adams Express	...	62¾	...	63¾	...
Wells, Fargo & Co. Express	...	37¾	...	37¾	...
American M. U. Express	...	37¾	...	37¾	...
United States Express	...	50¾	...	51¾	...
Merchants' Union Express	...	...	...	...	...
Gold	119¾	119¾	119¾	119¾	119¾

A comparison between yesterday's and to-day's closing quotations shows the following changes:

	Wed.	Thurs.	Adv.	Dec.
N. Y. Central	198½	198¾	...	¾
Erie	29	26¾	...	1¾
Harlem	147½	148	½	...
Reading	98	97¾	...	¼
Mich. Central	121	121	...	...
Mich. Southern	89	88¾	...	¼
Illinois Central	142¾	143	¼	...
Clev. and Pitts	102¾	102	...	¾
Chicago and North	74¾	73¾	...	¼
Do. preferred	91¾	90¾	...	¼
Rock Island	124¾	124¾	¼	...
St. Paul	66¾	66¼	...	½
Do. preferred	81¾	80¾	...	1
Ft. Wayne	92	91¾	...	¼
Chicago and Alton	116¾	116¾	...	...
Ohio and Miss	30	30¾	¾	...
Western U. Tel	34¾	34¾	...	...
Pacific Mail	43¾	43	...	¾
Adams Express	62	62¾	¾	...
Wells, Farco & Co	36¾	37¾	1	...
American M. U. Ex	37¾	37¾	...	...
U. S. Express	50¾	50¾	...	...
Merch. U. Ex	52¾	52¾	...	...

—James W. Kennedy, Broker, No. 80 Fourth avenue, (Apollo Building, dealer in United States Bonds, State and Municipal Securities, Railroad, Bank, Insurance and Miscellaneous Stocks. Being represented in the New York Stock Boards every day while in session, he purchases and sells on commission all kinds of stocks on the regular lists on the same terms as the New York brokers. Governments, Gold and Railway Stocks purchased for customers on the usual margin.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } THURSDAY EVENING, February 17, 1870. }

Business to-day was fair for the season, but far from being active. We have no particular change to note in prices from those last reported, and quote as follows, which are the wholesale store prices unless otherwise noted:

APPLES—Choice to extra apples are in moderate demand at $3 00@3 75 ₰ barrel. Poor and mixed lots are nominal in price, ranging from $1 00 up to $2 75 ₰ bbl.

APPLE BUTTER—We quote at 70@80c ₰ gallon as to quality.

BEANS—There is a good demand for choice navy beans at 90@ 95 ₰ bu, with sales of some fancy brands at 85c ₰ bu. Common and inferior grades are dull and nominal in price.

BUTTER—The market is dull and nominally $2 00@2 50 ₰ bush, as to quality.

BACON AND LARD—We quote S. C. hams at 19@19½c ₰ lb; bacon shoulders at 13½@13½c; S. C. shoulders at 11½c; rib sides 16c; clear rib side 16½c; clear sides 17c; lard in kegs 15½@16c; lard in buckets 17½@17½c; lard in large 17½@17½c. P. Sellers & Co. 's caddy lard, in 3 and 5 ₰ packages, 20c ₰ lb.

MESS PORK—Per bbl $29 50.

BROOM CORN—The market is firm with sales reported at from 11@13c ₰ lb, as to quality.

CHEESE—The market, is quiet, with fair stocks for the season. We quote Western Reserve at 15@17c; Factory 13c; 15@16c; and New York Goshen at 19½@20c ₰ lb. Limberger 19½c, and Sweitzer 20½c ₰ lb.

DRIED FRUITS—The market is dull. The best articles in the market are dull at the following quotations: Dried apples at 3@3½c; peaches 8@10c for quarters; 10½@11½c for halves, and 20c ₰ lb for pared. Blackberries 16c ₰ lb, and pitted cherries 30c ₰ lb.

CIDER.—Dull and nominal in price, ranging from $5@6 ₰ bbl, as to quality and size of barrel.

EGGS—Market dull at 23@24c ₰ dozen for warranted fresh.

HAY—We quote loose timothy hay from country wagons at 15@22 ₰ ton, as to quality. Baled timothy from store $18@22 ₰ ton.

HIDES—Sales at 2½@3c ₰ lb.

OATS STRAW—Sales from $10 to $14 ₰ ton.

DRESSED HOGS—The Diamond market sales in a retail way at $10 25@11 25 ₰ cwt, as to size, quality, etc. The demand is light.

LIME—We quote Cleveland white lime at $2 @2 25 ₰ bbl.

LARD OIL—We quote extra No 1 lard oil at $1 60@1 62 and No 2 at 80c ₰ gallon.

ONIONS—Choice onions are scarce and firm at $2 75@3, and fair to good quoted at $2 25@2 50 ₰ bush.

POTATOES—Market dull at 50@55c ₰ bushel from store.

POULTRY—Nice dressed chickens command 14@15c ₰ lb; dressed turkeys 17@18c, and ducks 17@18c ₰ lb. Live fowls, by the coop, 65c ₰ pair. Dressed geese 10c ₰ lb.

SEEDS—We quote choice clover seed at $5 00@ 5 25 in lots, and $5 50 in a retail way. Choice timothy seed sells at $4 75@5 00 ₰ bushel. Flax seed is nominally $2 10@2 15 ₰ bushel.

HOMINY—The best flint in the market is dull at $6 50 ₰ barrel.

FLOUR—The market is quiet with but a light local demand for supplying immediate wants. Prices are unchanged. Superfine quiet and dull; choice to choice red winter wheat flour at $5 50@6 00, and good to choice spring at $5 25@5 75 ₰ barrel. Common grades nominal in price, with little inquiry. Buckwheat flour is dull at $3 00@3 25 ₰ cwt. We quote prime kiln dried corn meal at $1 05@1 10 ₰ bushel. Rye flour $5 00 ₰ barrel.

GRAIN—Good to choice red winter wheat is quoted at $1 29@1 35 ₰ bush. Ear corn seems dull from first hands at 55@56c ₰ bushel. Rye is dull with buyers not willing to pay much over 80c ₰ bushel. On the track or wharf oats are dull at 45@46c ₰ bush. We quote choice barley spring barley at $1 00@ 1 05, and fair at $1 10 ₰ bushel.

WHISKY—We quote high wines at $1 00, common rectified $1 00, and proof rectified $1 10 ₰ gallon.

PITTSBURGH OIL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } FRIDAY, February 18, 1870. }

REFINED OIL—The market yesterday was quiet, nothing doing and prices quoted almost the same as the previous day, but in the absence of sales they are difficult to get at correctly. We quote February at 29c and March at 29½@29¾c.

CRUDE OIL—The market continues quiet and dull in every respect. For S. O. to July 169 bbls Parker's Landing oil, spot, at.....12½c
169 bbls Parker's Landing oil, spot, at.....12½c

DISPATCHES.

[By Western Union Telegraph.]

NEW YORK, February 17.—Closing on 16th: Market dull and prices easier but unsettled. Crude in bulk 10½c. Refined: Sales of 1,000 bbls bulk at 29½c; 900 bbls for the month 30c, closing at 30c. Refined shipping delivery converted into coin at the will of the holder. Don't tinker the currency!

—Although the Government bond market has not shown any great change of late, yet there is a strong undertone to the market, and the advance in London on Monday was caused by purchases there to sell in New York. The *World* says: The amount of five-twenty bonds bought in London and sold here within the last few days is estimated at $2,000,000. The "Treasury Department ring," it is stated, have sold about $5,000,000 five-twenties short. The low prices of five-twenty bonds have been forced by these sales of about $5,000,000, and other shorts, making a total of over $8,000,000 five-twenty bonds thrown on the market during the last few days. The whole amount was absorbed by the general demand from investors, which was attracted by the low prices.

Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., report the following quotations of government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Close.
U. S. Bonds '81	117¾	118	117¾
U. S. Bonds '62	114¾	115¾	115
U. S. Bonds '64	114¾	115¾	115
U. S. Bonds '65, 1865	114¾	115¾	115¼
U. S. Bonds '67	113¾	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds '68	113¾	115¾	115¾
10-40s	112¾	113¾	113¾
Gold	119¾	119¾	119¾

James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

	Feb. 16.	Feb. 17.	Adv.	Dec.
Gold	119	119¾	...	¾
U. S. Bonds, 1881	117¾	117¾	...	...
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '62	114¾	115	¼	...
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '64	114¾	114¾	...	...
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '65	114¾	114¾	¼	...
U. S. Bonds, new iss. '65	114¾	114¾	...	...
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s '67	113¾	113¾	...	...
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '68	113¾	113¾	...	...
U. S. Bonds, 10-40s	112¾	112¾	...	¼
U. S. Currency	111½	111½	...	...

—The Nashville *Republican Banner*, of February 15, has the following interesting exposure of the fraud practised by the operators on the New York Stock Exchange, who recently jumped the new Tennessee bonds from 40 to 55:

It will be seen by a statement in our financial dispatch from New York that the new issue of Tennessee bonds sold there to the fully four cents yesterday. The movement is ascribed to dispatches announcing that one branch of our General Assembly had already passed a bill to sell the State's interest in delinquent railroads, and that the other branch would follow suit. This rare piece of news was of course sent by some "bulling" into the market, and is totally at variance with the facts, as any one who has read our Legislative reports for the past few days must be fully aware. Nor is there any indication that such a policy will be adopted by our Legislature, but rather the reverse. If the operators in Tennessee bonds didn't know it, they ought to pretty deep yesterday, we are very much mistaken.

—The *Herald* in its notice of the stock market says: The stock market was again buoyant and active. The ease in the money market and the success which has so far attended the bullish operations of the cliques seem to have allayed all distrust of a decline and rendered the public reckless of the real value of investments at the Stock Exchange. The steady upward tendency of the market only proves what has been so frequently made manifest in Wall street, viz., that the current of speculation having once set in little or no regard is had for the intrinsic merit of what is "bought for a rise." It took the market two or three months to get rid of the debris of the wreck in September. With the new year the upward took courage and laid in vast loads of stocks at the then low prices. Since that time prices have advanced 10 to 25 ₰ cent. And new an invitation is extended to the public to "come in." There is not a clique in the street which could not sell at an immense profit at present prices, but there seems little or no reaction since the movement began. It is no part of the plans of these speculative combinations to keep prices steadily advancing. They wish the public to buy, and then, staggering under the load, will back to the cliques at a heavy decline. There is little doubt that any one with purse enough to stand such a decline would realize a profit at present prices, because the cliques will, before it is many days, have a reaction in the market. But small margins are likely to be wiped out by a long-continued dropping of the market. Nor is it advisable to make speculative sales; for as the cliques possess the great bulk of the stocks they would be gratified just as much by such "short" sales as by purchases, as they would then be rewarded the prevailing sentiment of the public they are ready to take advantage of it either way. The first signs of the unloading process were visible to-day in Reading, which, after being worked up to 95¾, was "plumped" to the street by the armful, the transactions comprising at least 50,000 shares, which were disposed of to good advantage, the price falling to 97¾, because Reading is "no reliable" an old stock, and those who were reluctant to buy above 99 eagerly bought at any fraction below that figure until the clique got rid of their load to remarkably good advantage.

—The following sale, made up from dispatches received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock Rooms, Apollo Building, No. 80 Fourth avenue, shows the prices of Railway Stocks, Gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Boards during the day:

	10 00.	11 30 A M	12 12 P M	1 30 P M	3 30 P M
New York Central	198¾	198	198	198¾	198¾
Erie	26¾	27¼	27¼	27¼	27¼
Harlem	146¾	148	...	...	148
Reading	96	97¾	97¾	97¾	97¾
Michigan Central	...	121	...	121	...
Michigan Southern	88¾	89¼	89¼	89¼	89¼
Illinois Central	...	143	...	...	...
Cleveland and Pittsburgh	102¼	103¼	102	...	...
Chicago and Northwestern	74	73¾	73¾	73¾	73¾
Do preferred	90¾	91¼	91¼	91¼	91¼
Rock Island	122¼	123¼	122¾	122¾	122¾
St. Paul	...	66¼	...	66¼	66¼
St. Paul preferred	...	80¾	...	80¾	80¾
Toledo and Wabash	...	47¾	...	47¾	...
Toledo and Wabash pref	...	71¾	...	...	...
Fort Wayne	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾
Chicago and Alton	...	116¾	...	115¾	...
Ohio and Mississippi	...	30¾	...	30¾	...
Western U. Tel	34¾	34¾	...	...	34¾
Pacific Mail	43¾	43	...	...	43
Adams Express	62	62¾	¾	...	...
Wells, Farco & Co	36¾	37¾	1	...	...
American M. U. Ex	37¾	37¾	...	...	...
U. S. Express	50¾	50¾	...	...	...
Merch. U. Ex	52¾	52¾	...	...	...

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PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } THURSDAY EVENING, February 17, 1870. }

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APPLES—Choice to extra apples are in moderate demand at $3 00@3 75 ₰ barrel. Poor and mixed lots are nominal in price, ranging from $1 00 up to $2 75 ₰ bbl.

APPLE BUTTER—We quote at 70@80c ₰ gallon as to quality.

BEANS—There is a good demand for choice navy beans at 90@ 95 ₰ bu, with sales of some

New York Finance and Trade.

Gold Closed at 119¾.

NEW YORK, February 17—P. M.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT OF CONGRESS.

The chief feature in financial circles to-day was the publication of private telegrams from Washington in regard to the action of Congress on finances. Prominent among these was one to the effect that all measures looking to the funding of the debt would be abandoned for the year. This news gave general satisfaction, as the funding bill now before Congress is looked upon with general disfavor. Other telegrams relating to the proposed reduction in the tariff and internal revenue, to the extent of $60,000,000 were received with much favor. The rise and activity in Government bonds in Europe were also the subject of much comment. German bankers generally oelebrated, in Europe last night, that the funding bill would probably fail, which, in connection with the general reduction of interest in continental cities, caused a rise in the nations credit. Bankers generally look for general improvement in Europe when it is known the funding bill is abandoned for this year.

MONEY.

There was a good demand for money this afternoon; the market was steady at 5@6 ₰ cent. on call. Discounts vary at 7@8 ₰ cent.

STERLING

A shade firmer at 109¾@110.

GOLD

Heavy and lower, with a pressure of offers to sell on options, the price opened at 119¾, declined to 119¼, closed at 119¾. The assistant Treasurer sold $1,000,000 at 119 5-16@119 50-100. Carrying rates 3@6 ₰ cent. Clearances $27,000,000.

GOVERNMENTS

Lower in sympathy with gold, but closed steady. Coup ns 81 1/4@81 5/8; do '62 1 06@1 07; do '64 1 11@1 12; do '65 do 1 11@1 12; do new 1 11@1 12; do '67 1 13@1 13; do '68 1 13@1 13; do 5s 1 13@1 13; do 10s 1 13@1 13; Currency 6s 1 15@1 17.

STATE BONDS

Dull. Missouris 94¾; old Tennessees 56; new 49¾; old Virginia 60; new 59; North Carolinas 46; new 28. Louisiana levee 69 3/4.

STOCKS.

The railway market was very weak and prices off ½ to 1¼ ₰ cent. from the highest point of the day, and closed heavy. The decline was caused by selling by some leading operators, who buy back stocks they sold freely during the early days of the late wave of the market. Miscellaneous and express stocks generally rallied slightly, being in Pacific Mail.

CLOSING PRICES.

Canton 58; Cumberland 33¾; Western Union Telegraph 34¾; Quicksilver 43¾; Mariposa 9¾; preferred 20¾; Adams Express 63¾; Wells Fargo 37¾; American 37¾; United States 51¾; Pacific Mail 43¾; New York Central 97¾; Erie 26¾; do preferred 46; Harlem 147¾; do preferred 125; Hudson River 98¾; Reading 96¾; Michigan Central 121; Lake Shore 88; Illinois Central nominal, last sale 141; Pittsburgh 101; Northwestern 76¾; preferred 90; Rock Island 123¾; St. Paul 66; do preferred 80; Wabash 47¾; do preferred 71; Fort Wayne 91¾; Alton and Terre Haute 30; do preferred 70; Chicago and Alton 115¾; preferred 115¾; Ohio and Mississippi 30¾; Boston, Hartford and Erie 17; New Jersey Central 99¾; Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central 21; 8s, 75; Panama 107; Ontario 19; Lake Shore Mountain 63; Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati 74.

MINING SHARES

Gregory $1 80; Crown Point 85; Boston prices—Caloma 70, Copper Falls 85; Franklin 75; Hecla 85; Quincy 27.

Sub-Treasury balances—Gold $77,832,155; currency $7,167,376; general balance, $81,779 912.

Louisville Market.

LOUISVILLE, February 17. Hanging quiet at 25c. Cotton very dull; no demand; buyers are holding off; middling 23½c. Flour in fair local demand; extra family $6 25. Grain steady. Wheat—red and white $1 05@1 15. Corn 90c. Oats 47½@48c. Pork active; sales 85 bbls at $26 50. Bacon firm at 15½c for clear rib sides; 16½c for clear sides; 13½c for shoulders. Lard active; sales 85 bbls bulk at 15½c; 200 bbls for the month 20c, closing at 20c. Whisky dull at 93c. Sugars firm and unchanged. Coffee quiet and unchanged. Molasses firm at 80@85c. Hams—sugar cured 19@20c. Lard in tierces 16½c; in kegs 18c. Whisky firmer; sales at 93@94c.

Baltimore Market.

BALTIMORE, February 17.—Flour active and higher for low grades; western Superfine $4 75@5 00; Extra $ 5 75. family $6 12@6 75. Wheat unchanged at $1 26@1 28. Corn less firm; white 90@95c; yellow 85@87c. Oats firm at 53@55c. Rye 85@90 c. Mess pork quiet at $27 50@28 00. Bacon firm; rib sides 15½c; clear rib 16¾@16¾c; shoulders 12¾@13c; hams 19@20c. Lard quiet at 16½c. Whisky better at 90@91c, wood and iron bound.

Philadelphia Market.

PHILADELPHIA, February 17.—Flour firmer and in good demand; sales of 5,000 bbls, including family at $6 25@6 50. Wheat unchanged. Rye steady at 90@91 00. Corn in good demand; sales of 10,000 bushels at 90@91c. Petroleum quiet; crude 21c; refined 28½c. Provisions dull. Mess pork $28 50@29 50. Lard 15½c. Whisky held at 90@91 00 for iron bound.

Detroit Market.

DETROIT, February 17.—Wheat—extra very firm at $1 25; other grades, nominal; receipts small; no important change; No 1 $1 14. Corn—New 70@73c. Oats—no sales already at $0 36. Dressed hogs very quiet at $9 25@10 75.

IMPORTS BY RAIL.

Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago R. R. —P. R. R. Lessee.

Grain Elevator, 1 car oats, Cambria Iron Works, 5 cars coal railroad iron; A. Bell & Co., 13 bales hay; Bell, Beaver Falls Cutlery co, 12 box cutlery; Hussey, Wells & co, 7 bbls axes; R. J. Fahnestock, 2 cars rags; T. C. Jenkins & sons, 300 bbls flour, 600 sks do, 1 sk coffee; Brewster, R. & co, 4 sks and 1 bag sundries; Lea & Gilmore, 24 bdls tellows; S. Evert & co, 30 doz brooms; Schoonmaker & Co, 100 bbls flour; Hostetter & S, 50 do spirits; Lockney, I. car s iron; C. P. Markle & co, 20 bales paper stock; Wells, A. & W. 1 car iron; A. Murray, 12 sks rags; Park, Bros. & co, 1 bx steel; Woodworth & D, 8 sks onions, A. Kirkpatrick, 4 cf cases; Hamilton, J. & co, 5 do rags; Knox & Orr, 10 bbls flour; Hill & H, 50 pcs rags; Lonsinger, 2 bbls apples, 1 bx 5 ware, 2 do sudse, 1 bbl eggs, 2 bxs g ware.

Pittsburgh & Connellsville Railroad.

R T Kennedy & Bro, 1 car wheat; J Rhodes, 200 bags barley; Frazier, M & co, 66 bbls paper; J S Arthurs, 101 sundr; H Lantz, 2 bxs butter; 2 bxs mdse; Lindsay, J & Sons, 2 cars seed; G Stuart, 100 bbls flour; superior Iron co, 8 cars limestone; J K silent, 1 do lime; Kimel Bro & co, 8 rls pots, 6 bbls do; S P Armstrong, 10 doz brooms; Pittsburgh Forging and Iron co, 1 car brick; Wm Welsh & co, 1 do wheat.

Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad.

S Hare & Son, 1 clover; R. Park, Bro & co, 1 car s steer; Mcgowan & D, 1 do lumber; Braggeman & O'B, 2 cars potatoes, 6 bbls apples; Van Gorder & co, 1 car potatoes and turnips; J Spear & co, 50 obls oil; Fallstaich, M & co, 125 sacks do; McCandless, W & co, 4 sks potatoes; Bricker & co, 4 bbls onions; Dilworth, H & co, 25 bxs cheese, 10 bbls do; Kimel Bro & co, 5 bbls eggs; A Middlesworth, 121 obls apples; s Duvol, 6 obls d do; H Hall & Son, 1 bx carbons; Geyer & Bro, 10 bbls d peaches; A C Clendenning, 4 doz hames.

Allegheny Station.

J Herbert, 3 bbls apples, 1 bxs potatoes; R W White, 1 lot h h goods; D Davis, 1 lot cabbage; Smith & D, 11 bbls flour.

Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis R. R.

W C Hopper, 1 car lumber; J S Liggett & co, 1 do wheat; W McKee, 1 do do; J W Bonsmiller, 5 do do; S T Kennedy & Bro, 2 do do; J Conner, 130 bf bbls flour; J Wallace, 100 obls flour; Woodworth & D, 1 car coal; G Myer, 20 bbls flour, 100 sks do; Voigt, M & co, 1 bbl onions, 12 pkgs apples; A Gent, 22 do do; Mrs M Allen, 1 bx cigars; J H Parker, 15 obls oil; J F Barr, 2 bbls do; J Ainsworth, 2 cf cases hay; H Devlin, 2 bxs bacon, 15 bxs candles; C W Hammer & Son, 2 pkgs mdse; J Hall & Son, 1 do do; Mcclinchy & Co, 2 bags meal; Z Wainwright, 90 do barley; Meador & H, 3 bxs e cotton, 12 bbls apples, 35 bags do; Mcgee & Bro, 1r, 10 do rags, 2 pkgs bottles; Hamilton, A & A co, 1 bbl varnish; W H Haven & Co, 1 car brick; J Arnathal, 56 cads tobacco; H Berger, 6 bedsteads; Mc Hesselton, 50 bbls flour; Wm Long & co, 100 do do; Hastings & D, 2 cars staves; McKelvey & H, 140 bags corn, 25 do do; 2 bbls onions, 1 bx sugar.

Oil Receipts Per A. V. R. R.

O S Goodrick, 160 bbls crude to Fisher Bros; O S Palmer, 100 do do; Kennedy & Co, 100 do do; King, 60 do do to J Gaitinger; J B Farley, 240 do do; Cochran & Co, 100 do do; E H Long, 80 do do to Fisher Bros; W Barnes, 80 do do to A S Mills; J M Bailey, 100 do benzine.

Freight Receipts Per A. V. R. R.

Adams & A, 149 sks oats; Monongahela House, 8 bxs soda; Marshall, J & co, 1 bdl rags; Knox & Orr, 2 bgs; Alt Arbuthnot S & Co, 1 bx socks; D Gregg & co, 1 do do; Wm Hamilton & Co, 5 sks rags; Hamilton, J & co, 1 do do; Kell & R, 7 bags oats, 2 do s seed; H Herron, 1 car bark; Fleer & co, 1 do do; W McK & Co, 1 do rye; D L Reynold, 1 do lime; M Brickell & co, 2 bbls glass, 12 bxs do; Woodworth & D, 1 car coal; Hastings & D, 2 cars staves; McKelvey & H, 140 bags corn, 25 do do; 2 bbls onions, 1 bx sugar.

Oil Receipts Per A. V. R. R.

Citizens' Oil Refining Co, 501 bbls to Tack Bros & Co, Philadelphia.

Fawcett, L. S & Co, 280 bbls ref to W P Logan & Bro, Philadelphia.

J. J. Mc'er, 200 bbls refined to Logan Bros & Co, Philadelphia.

National Refining and Storing Co, 59 bbls refined to Warden, Frew & co, Philadelphia.

Total Shipments Reported.....1 009 bbls

Oil Shipped East by Western P. R. R.

Kirkpatrick & L, 171 bbls refined to W P Logan & Bro, Philadelphia.

Mentzer, Hexler & Co, 151 bbls refined to Waring, Kirg & Co, Philadelphia.

Total Shipments Refined.....322 bbls

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

CHICAGO MARKET.

CHICAGO, February 17, 1870.

EASTERN EXCHANGE—Quiet at par selling.

FLOUR—Low and no discussion; moderately active; others dull; spring extras $3 90@4 12½.

WHEAT—Dull and 5c lower; sales of No 1 at 87½@ 87¾c; No 2 at 80@81c, closing with buyers at 81@c and sellers at 81½c; this afternoon market unsettled at 81½c cash; 82½c seller March for No 2.

CORN—Dull and 5@8c lower; sales of No 2 at 69@ 69¾c; rejected, 66@c; no grade at 49@53c; this afternoon No 2 dull at 69@69 3/8c.

OATS—Dull and weak and 3c lower, at 38½@38¾c for No 2; others at the inside.

RYE—Dull at 87@87½c for No 2.

BARLEY—Quiet at 89@c for No 2.

HIGH WINES—Quiet and steady at 92@92½c.

MESS PORK—In fair demand and lower; seller, at $26 62½ cash; $26 50 seller, $27 12 buyer March; $26 75 seller April. Hog closed cash, 14½c; seller March. Meats firmer; dry salted shoulders loc; short rib middles 15½c; short clear do 16½c. Lard firmer; loose; sweet pickled hams 14@14½c.

DAYMANS House—Firm and steady, closing at 25@ 10 50 dividing on 200

LIVE HOGS—Steady and firm at $8 25@9 40 for common to extra prime.

CATTLE—Steady at $4 00@7 25 for fair butchers' to choice shipping steers.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, February 17.—Cotton unsettled and declined; lower; sales 2,200 bales, as 24½c for middling uplands

The Daily Commercial.

CITY MATTERS.

List of Unmailable Letters.

The following is a list of letters held at the Pittsburgh Postoffice for want of pre-payment of postage, and on account of misdirection. The writers can get them by applying at the Postoffice:

Bower, Phillip, Edwardsville, Mo.....3
Brauer, John, Lancaster, N. Y.....3
Gormley, H., Emlenton, Pa.....3
Henwright, Charles, Pittsburgh, Pa.....3
McChilcoat, Miss, Greensburgh, Pa.....3
Platts, Frank, Sharon, Pa.....3
Power, Amalia, Franklin, Pa.....1
Rubi, Charles, Allegheny, Pa.....3
Troth, Henry, Bridgeport, Pa.....3

JEFF DAVIS.—Jeff Davis was arrested and placed in the lock-up last night for drunkenness.

GONE.—Stephen Diggins and Jesse Harris, the colored men arrested on a telegram from Uniontown on Wednesday evening, were taken back yesterday.

TO LETS.—There are a large number of "To Lets" up on all kinds of establishments along Penn street, from its commencement to its terminus.

THE LOCK-UP.—There were about fifteen prisoners in the lock-up last night. The cases were mostly of a drunken and disorderly character.

SENT UP.—Henry, *alias* "Cookey" Ward, whose arrest was noticed yesterday, went up for thirty days, Mayor Brush furnishing the necessary transportation papers.

DRAFTS on all parts of Europe, in large or small amounts, at lowest rates, for sale at Bingham's Agency, 145 Smithfield street, near Sixth avenue.

ILLEGAL LIQUOR SELLING.—Charles A. Brown has been held for a hearing before Alderman John A. Floyd, on a charge of selling liquor without license, William Jackson prosecutor.

CLOTH ARRIVED.—The cloth for the police uniforms arrived yesterday, and the contracts will be awarded in a few days. The uniforms—coats, vests and pantaloons—will cost about $34 50 each. Last year they cost $38 each.

WATCH REPAIRING.—W. G. Dunseath, jeweller, No. 56 Fifth avenue, has in his employ an able corps of experienced watch-makers, whose entire time is employed in manufacturing and repairing fine watches.

PUMPS.—The largest pump manufactory in the world is that of Rumsey & Co., at Seneca Falls, New York. The firm manufacture over two hundred different styles, at prices varying from three dollars to four hundred dollars each. See card in another column.

FORTUNATE ARREST.—Peter Cusack was arrested by officer Hays for drunkenness on Wylie street last evening. When searched at the lock-up, a note drawn by Messrs. Lippincott & Bakewell in favor of the prisoner for $850, was found in his possession.

BOARDING HOUSE ROBBED.—A robbery was perpetrated at the boarding house of Mr. Robert Peterson on Allegheny street, Twelfth ward, Wednesday night. A gold watch, an overcoat and several other articles were taken. There is no clue to the perpetrators of the robbery.

WASHINGTON INFANTRY ELECTION.—The Washington Infantry will hold their election for military officers at the armory, in Spiane's building, this evening. An item in yesterday's paper gave the wrong date. Members of the Infantry are requested to be in attendance in full force this evening.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.—The National Association of School Superintendents will hold a special session in the City of Washington, commencing on Tuesday, the 1st of March, at 11 o'clock, a. m. The Association will convene at the rooms of the National Office of Education, 530 G street, in the rear of the Patent Office.

TAKEN TO DIXMONT.—Officer Dressler yesterday conveyed an insane man named Kaloff, whose relatives reside at Braddock's Fields, to Dixmont Hospital. Before starting down with him, the officer discovered, in the pocket of a revolver, already cocked, with several loads in it. The weapon was taken from him.

WHERE THEY CAME FROM.—The watches presented to G. J. Luckey, Esq., City Superintendent, and Prof. I. N. Stephenson, Principal of the Grant District School, by the Pittsburgh Church Fair Managers, were of the United States Watch Company, Waltham, Mass., and were purchased at the well known establishment of W. G. Dunseath, No. 56 Fifth avenue.

THEATRICAL.—The *Chronicle* of last evening announces that it is reported that Mr. Coleman's project of building a magnificent new Opera House, in the rear of the present one, has been abandoned, and the project of building a magnificent brewery there substituted. It also states that Mr. James Carr, owner of the Pittsburgh Theatre, went east, yesterday, to make arrangements for building a fine new Opera House on the site of his present Theater.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY INSTITUTE.—The Tenth Annual County Institute, required by law, will be held in Pittsburgh, commencing March 28th, and ending April 1st, 1870. A full attendance is expected. Directors will do well to follow the example of one of the counties in the eastern part of the State, and give all the teachers permission to attend the Institute, allowing their salaries to go on as usual. Experienced and able speakers have been engaged.

A. T. DOUTRETT, County Superintendent.

THE ACCIDENT ON WYLIE STREET.—The child mentioned yesterday as being run over by a street car, on Wylie street, Wednesday evening, was a son of Mr. Robert Stewart, who resides in Allinder's Court. One of the hind wheels passed over the arm of the unfortunate child, breaking the limb in two places, above the elbow and near the wrist. The child was attended by Drs. McCook and T. A. Rex, who bandaged the arm, and hope is entertained to reduce the fracture until the swelling subsides.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT—MAN'S SKULL FRACTURED.—Peter Wagner, a German wagon driver, was kicked on the head by a mule on the afternoon of the 16th inst., while standing near the animal when it was being shod, in a blacksmith shop, at Frankstown, Twenty-third ward. Wagner had his skull fractured, was rendered insensible, and remained so until yesterday morning, He is under the treatment of Dr. Hartman, who expresses the opinion that the injuries, although very painful, are not necessarily fatal.

WHERE IS HE?—Mr. William Collins, an employee of the crucible house of Hussey, Wells & Co.'s steel works, is desirous of ascertaining the whereabouts of a youth named Young, a relative of Mrs. Collins, who came here from Washington two weeks ago, got a job and a situation, obtained from him by Mr. Collins, in the mill mentioned. He disappeared yesterday morning, and on investigation Mr. Collins missed a suit of clothes worth $45, and an overcoat worth $20, and $70 in cash and the gold watch worth $50. It was also ascertained that the youth got a pair of calf skin boots on credit from a fellow-workman, and also borrowed $15 from him previous to his disappearance. An effort will be made to arrest the accused.

A Brutal Husband.

Charles Raher made information yesterday, before Mayor Brush, charging Joseph V. Kerr with surety of the peace. Mrs. Kerr, it will be recollected, was arrested some days since for surety of the peace and assault and battery on oath of his wife, Catharine Kerr, who, if her statements if sworn to, he habitually assaults in the most shameful manner. After a hearing he was held to bail to answer both charges. Wednesday night, Raher, who is her step son of Kerr, alleges, he came home drunk. Approaching the bed where Mrs. Kerr lay sick, commenced abusing her. He tore the plasters off her, placed there on account of the bruises he inflicted on her, and then threatened her with further violence. He was finally compelled to desist, and driven from the house. Yesterday morning the attending physician called at the former's step-son made the information as above indicated, and a warrant was issued for the arrest of the accused. At last accounts he had not been apprehended.

Real Estate Sales.

The following deeds were filed of record before Recorder Thomas H. Hunter, February 17, 1870:

W. J. Radcliff to David Wright; December 1, 1869; 28 by 60 feet, corner of Townsend street and Pastore alley.....$1,000
J. C. Tilton to George W. Hollis; October 29, 1869; part of lots No. 88 and 89, in Bakewell's plan of sub-division of outlots 232 and 233 in the Reserve tract, Allegheny City. Also, 48 by 129 feet on Lathrop, Allegheny.....$9,000
Wm. M Darlington to Michael Simon; October 11, 1869; 20 by 100 feet on East lane, Allegheny.....$1,150
J. H. Nobbs to George McKee; February 1, 1870; 48 by 120 feet on Ravine street, Thirteenth ward.....$2,250
Thomas J. Brereton to James Douglass; March 10, 1869; 20 by 119 feet on the same street.....$133
George McKee to James Douglass, February 1, 1870; 60 by 100 feet on Lathrop street, Seventeenth ward.....$500
Thos. J. Brereton to J. H. Nobbs; January 1, 1864; 48 by 120 feet on Ravine street, Thirteenth ward.....$400
James Douglass to George McKee; February 1, 1870; 20 by 119 feet on Ravine street, Thirteenth ward.....$300
James Douglass to George McKee; February 1, 1870; 40 by 100 feet on Lafayette alley, Lawrenceville.....$300
Wm. H. McGee to Joan Ballantine; December 1, 1869; 50 by 120 feet on Brown street, Allegheny.....$500
James Calhoun to Martha Copeland; February 1, 1869; 119 acres in Elizabeth township.$10,800
S. B. Cluley, Sheriff, to Edward Heseltine; September 15, 1869; 60 by 110 feet, in McKeesport, on Walnut street.....$600
Edward Heseltine to Isaac Thayer; February 10, 1870; same as above.....$600

THE OIL BROKERS.

Organization of an Association—Talk of Removing the Oil Offices from Duquesne Way—Election of Permanent Officers for the Ensuing Year.

The oil brokers of this city held a meeting at the Dalzell building on Wednesday afternoon, for the purpose of organizing an Oil Brokers' Association, adopting a constitution, and adjourned to meet yesterday afternoon to elect permanent officers.

At four o'clock P. M., yesterday, there was a full attendance of the brokers.

R. T. Leech was called to the chair, and J. K. Barbour appointed Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP.

After the President stated the object of the meeting the following committee on membership was appointed: Messrs. Leech, King, Wood and John Benn.

The constitution which had been adopted on Wednesday was signed by twenty-four brokers.

PERMANENT OFFICERS.

The following permanent officers were elected:

President—R. T. Leech.
Vice-President—Theodore E. Tack.
Secretary and Treasurer—John K. Barbour.
Executive Committee—R. S. Waring, F. A. Dilworth and John Benn.

TALK OF REMOVAL.

Mr. Tack moved that a committee be appointed to take into consideration the propriety of removing the oil business to another part of the city, where the brokers can have more facilities and better accommodations.

The motion was adopted and the following committee appointed: Mr. T. E. Tack, F. A. Dilworth and S. S. McIlwaine.

On motion adjourned.

THE CITY SCHOOLS.

Condition of the School Finances.

THE TEXT BOOK QUESTION.

The Standing Committees of the Central Board for 1869—The Secretary—His Duties, Salary, &c.—His Statement of Facts Bearing on Unexpended Balances—A Member of the Board Vindicated.

A special meeting of the Central Board of Education was held yesterday afternoon at two o'clock, at 41 Fourth avenue (third story).

President John Wilson occupied the chair, and the following members were present: Messrs. George H. Anderson, Samuel Chadwick, Thomas J. Craig, James Cuddy, Lewis J. Fleming, Adams Getty, John L. Hamilton, John Harrison, Joseph Harriman, George W. Humbert, Philip H. Laufman, William Mays, Thomas W. Shaw and James M. Taylor.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The President stated that the special meeting had been called for the purpose of hearing the Standing Committees for the ensuing year, as appointed by him.

Mr. Hamilton moved the appointment of a Permanent Committee on the Deaf Mute School instead of the President of the Board being an ex-officio member of the Committee.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

The President then announced the Standing Committees for the ensuing year as follows:

Finance—Messrs. Anderson, Cuddy, Getty, Laufman and Shaw.

Text Books and Grades—Messrs. Aiken, Hartman, Shaw, Taylor and Harrison.

Rules and Regulations—Messrs. Humbert, Herdman, Getty, Fleming and Taylor.

High School—Messrs. Herdman, Anderson, Laufman, Neckeman and Shaw.

Colored School—Messrs. Harriman, Humbert, Laufman, Hamilton and Taylor.

Music—Messrs. Craig, Chadwick, Harrison, Sims and Hamilton.

Teachers and Salaries—Messrs. Nobbs, Mitchell, Craig, Aiken and Fleming.

Printing—Messrs. Mays, Neckerman, Mitchell, Sims and Chadwick.

Evening Schools—Messrs. Chadwick, Cuddy, Mays, Sims and Nobbs.

Lect and Damb School—Messrs. Getty, Anderson, Humbert, Craig and Shaw.

On motion of Mr. Hartman the Committees were approved as read.

THE DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY—SALARY, &C.

Mr. Hartman, from the Committee appointed to define the duties of the Secretary, fix his salary, &c., submitted a report requiring that officer to keep an accurate record of the minutes, with marginal notes indicating the subject recorded; to prepare the tax duplicates in such a manner as may be required by law or by resolution of this Board, and to keep an account of tax abatements and exonerations made by the Board, and to report the same to the duplicate, or other book, with the reasons for such abatements or exonerations; to prepare the annual report of the Board, and forward the same to the State Superintendent properly attested, and to the end that said report be made to the Legislature in January; to keep a series of Local Boards to report to this Board at as early a date as practicable; to draw all warrants on the Treasurer for the money authorized by the Board, and preserve a record of the same in numerical order; to notify the members of stated and special meetings; to preserve all the records of the county not otherwise connected with the interests or working of the Central Board, the same to be kept in a place accessible to the members of the Board; to collect as far as possible all papers belonging to the Central Board from the time of its organization, and file the same in regular order; to keep the property and printed matter now possessed by the Board at their rooms, and all books and other property that may hereafter be received at the monthly meeting, donation or subscription, which shall at the next meeting succeeding to the Mayoralty be voted for disposal by Committees or otherwise as the Board may direct; to notify members of the meeting of committees and to act as secretary for the same when desired; to be in his office on business days from 1:30 P. M. to 5 o'clock P. M., and on the first Saturday of each month during the same hours; and also to be in his office all day; to assist the city superintendent in all his writings, etc., and to keep all manuscript examinations for reference by the principals, teachers, etc., to keep an account of the Board's money and to pay out the same as directed by the Board, and have the same open to the inspection of citizens during office hours; to keep an office, the meeting room of the Board with the assistance of the janitor; to occupy the same office with the City Superintendent, and perform the duties of that officer when absent, and to perform such other duties as required by law. The salary of the Secretary to be fixed at eleven hundred dollars per annum, payable monthly.

On motion the report was accepted and the rules and regulations adopted.

On motion of Mr. Hartman, the salary of the Secretary was fixed at $1,100, the sum recommended in the report.

THE FINANCES OF THE BOARD—INFORMAL REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE.

Mr. Getty, from the Finance Committee of 1869, submitted the following report as follows:

GENTLEMEN: I respectfully make an informal report of the Finance Committee:

Central Board of Education, in account with John R. McCune, Treasurer.

Receipts from July 7, 1869, to February 18, 1870, on account of assessment for 1869.....$144,915 70
Balance of 1868.....4,620 13
Total.....$149,535 83

Amount due Treasurer July 7, 1869.....$ 6,092 46
Warrants issued from July 7, 1869, to February 16, 1870.....97,128 08—$103,220 54
Balance in hands of Treasurer, February 16, 1870.....46,315 29
Estimated receipts up to July 1, 1870, uncollected.....15,000 00
$61,315 29
Monthly repayments up to July 1, 1870, (five months).....10,000 00
Outstanding warrants.....3,000 00
High School building—estimated expenditures up to July 1, 1870.....20,000 00
$92,000 00
Amount to be provided for after July 1, 1870.....39,081 51
Paid on account of High School building.....16,265 78
Total.....$55,347 29

On motion of Mr. Anderson the report was accepted and ordered to be filed.

THE TEXT BOOK QUESTION.

Mr. Taylor offered the following preamble and resolution, stating that he had intended to offer them at the last meeting, but was unavoidably absent:

WHEREAS, Under the present system of providing text books for the use of the Public Schools of this city, the series is liable to be changed annually, thus creating confusion in the schools of the city, and loss of interest, and entailing an onerous and often useless expense upon the parents of the pupils; therefore,

Resolved, That a Committee of five members of this Board be appointed in draft as the Board may direct, to memorialize the Legislature asking the passage of the same, making it obligatory upon the members of the several sub-district boards to assemble at their respective places of meeting on the first Monday of May, 1870, and on the first Monday of May every third year thereafter, for the purpose of adopting a series of text books to be used in the schools of this city, and that Mr. Taylor be the first member of the Committee.

Mr. Taylor said he was not instigated by any thing he saw in the papers about text books. He had the resolution written and in his pocket two weeks. He had not asked the members of the Board were corruptly influenced by book agents.

Mr. Cuddy suggested an amendment that the Central Board and local boards meet in joint convention and consider the matter, but on being informed that was what was contemplated in the resolution he withdrew the amendment.

Mr. Shaw thought that the adoption of the resolution would cause the book agents to bore the members of the Central and Local Boards worse than ever.

Mr. Hamilton said that if undue influences were brought to bear on the members of the Central Board, he did not see how the resolution could remedy the matter. It would make it worse.

Mr. Hartman thought the matter could be accomplished in the Central Board by asking the Legislature to enact a law giving the Board the power to adopt books for a certain number of years. It would be as practicable to submit the question to a vote of the whole community, or to a convention of the Local Boards.

Mr. Laufman thought it wrong to change the books every three years. He thought a longer period far more practicable. He also spoke about the "undue influence," and remarked that he had voted for the text books by instructions of the district board he represented.

Mr. Fleming said he did not believe the city had a series of books.

Mr. Laufman said it had.

On motion of Mr. Hartman the matter was laid over for the present, to be called up again at the next meeting.

GEORGE H. ANDERSON, ESQ., VINDICATED.

Mr. Harrison offered the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, It being charged by a certain newspaper that G. H. Anderson, a member of this Board, said he "thanked the Committee on Finance for deciding against putting out the school funds at interest, and is opposing the wishes of the citizens in putting out said moneys at interest," it is but just to the said member to say that the language attributed to him is incorrectly reported; that he did say "he felt like thanking the Committee on Finance for interfering to prevent a violation of the law," And further, that the resolution showing the sense of the Board as being in favor of putting out surplus moneys at interest was offered by Mr. Anderson and passed unanimously.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Cuddy.

Previous to its passage, Mr. Anderson asked that he be allowed to explain, himself, and state whether his language was correctly reported.

Mr. Curdy then made a statement averring that Mr. Anderson's record showed that he had always favored the loaning of the funds until an eminent lawyer, and another lawyer, a member of this Board, had said that such act would be illegal and would make the members individually responsible.

Mr. Hamilton was opposed to the adoption of the resolution. He thought the Board should go on and take no notice of these attacks on the streets and in the papers about the Board. [Applause.]

Mr. Laufman thought differently, and although he was not favorable to taking a stand against the "sniper snapper" who chose to say something against the Board, still he thought the Board had been misrepresented, it should be righted.

The resolution was then adopted, after which the Board adjourned.

PASSAGE tickets to and from the "Old Country" on first-class steamers, at low rates, for sale at Bingham's Agency, 145 Smithfield street, near Sixth avenue.

OUR RURAL SCHOOLS.

Better Houses the Great Necessity.

Just now, when the opponents of common school education are joining their efforts to render the system unpopular and odious, it behooves the friends of free schools to ascertain whether there are not some things connected with their management which give their enemies occasion to decry the system. If earnest investigation were made, many neglects and abuses would be found which tend to render the system unpopular, and which ought to be attributed solely to the management of the schools, and not to the imperfections of the system. Before any of the evils complained of can be apparent, that wherever good buildings and suitable accommodations are furnished (as in the wards and boroughs of the city) and well attended, the pupils are making gratifying progress in their studies, and no one complains of the *failure* of the system. When the schools in the townships come to be examined, it will be found that in many, if not in the majority, the opposition as they have these needful accommodations. The directors and others have not complied with the spirit of the law, by furnishing the children with the best means requisite for an education, the schools will be found full, the teachers efficient, and the people universally in favor. Likewise all are neglected and suffered to go to ruin for want of being attended to in time, and this remaining become demoralized, the teachers and pupils careless, parents and others in a position to note the system a failure or a humbug. We appeal to every man who has knowledge of the workings of the school system in this county, if this is not the fact.

We have now in our hands a copy of the monthly report of Mr. Douthett, County Superintendent, for January, which we intended to give in full, but on account of the pressure of matter this report must be absolutely essential to the success of the school system in this county, and visit to the schools in Baldwin township, he says:

"There are nine frame houses, and with one or two exceptions, they are in bad repair, and second to none. The Headman house cannot give place too soon to one more suitable. It is a disgrace to the county at this time. Nor is the furniture in any way adapted to the wants of the schools. Nothing was yet said concerning a fitness in having neither house nor furniture suitable for instruction.

"Neither house nor furniture suitable for school purposes, and the Superintendent not expected to prosper under such circumstances?

Again, speaking of the Union borough schools:

"*Houses*, three all frame, and, notwithstanding one year-old, some of the worst I have seen in the State. The school. It has, however, been found that with the increased facilities for the past two years, the number of pupils presenting themselves for admission has largely increased, and that the house is full to overflowing.

True—"with the increased facilities for school purposes," the schools always thrive and prosper.

In Elizabeth township, where there is a good degree of well to do intelligence, this record is made of one of the schools:

"The Greenoak House is not fit for school purposes and should be vacated. It is a frightful nuisance, and as the house is, it is kept in such a condition as one who has any regard for cleanliness would not care to set from having his children tormented for six long hours each day."

The Superintendent is responsible for the construction of the above sentence.

To other schools in the same healthy township, are thus spoken of:

"*History*, neither house nor school are in a very satisfactory condition. Teacher very *indifferent* as to the proper discipline of the school. Has good ability, or third grade, and gives as a reason that, "it is not necessary for her to be a first-class teacher, as it is more of *compliment* to the *patrons* that she *teaches* at all, if she is a poor teacher." Here is a fine specimen of condition, and one would suppose, from the manner in which the reason is given, that no little interest was taken in the school by the teacher. The term is two months, and the pupils are making no such progress which it is reasonable that the term is only about five months, and the large majority of the pupils are in the primary part of the time. But let the teacher be encouraged by patronage, and the pupils by the prizes of adopting in their attendance, and then we will be prepared to admit—if the Board of Controllers for such schools must be something radically wrong.

These are but fair representaries on the manner in which our school system is managed in the rural districts, where the schools are most neglected; and parents must be willing to be taxed to have the best grade of teachers they wish to see the cause of popular education flourish and bless the people.

There might be some improvement made in the qualifications of the Directors and teachers, as will appear from the following extract from the report above alluded to. It is fairly worthy of the most intelligent consideration, but we are nevertheless tempted to give it, to show how the Superintendent of the State Superintendent, and at the same time to ask whether the unqualified teacher holds Mr. Douthett's certificate:

"*Turtlesville*, a very large school, some 80 pupils have been enrolled, and an average attendance of 60 for the month. One would judge from the scenes of confusion which, while in session, the school under the children are strangers to order. The teacher does not appear to have any control over the pupils, and from all appearances, the constant demand made for permission to go home or go out, which is almost constant, and, at least, one half of his time is occupied in the granting of similar requests. I would not grant to the pupils permission to go home or out to the privy—that is, if I could be allowed, if the teacher understands the business.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Common Pleas—Judge Sterrett.

In the case of Samuel Hibler vs. John Kehll, before reported, the jury found a verdict for the defendant.

Stern & Stein vs. the owners of the steamboat Urlida. Action to recover the value of eight barrels of whisky, shipped from Pittsburgh to Franklin in 1865, and lost by a sudden rise in the Allegheny river. The barrels were on board the steamer at Franklin, but the river rose and carried it away. The defendants allege that under the contract, or bill of lading, they were not responsible for the *unavoidable* loss of the freight, and the jury rendered a verdict for the plaintiff named. On trial.

The following is the trial list for to-day:

No. 161, Kennedy vs. Ditbridge.
No. 342, Jenkins vs. McClaren.
No. 352, Reed vs. Ross.
No. 364, Reed vs. Clark.
No. 365, Monroe vs. Hays.
No. 382, Bland vs. Leland.
No. 385, Duthett vs. Kennedy and wife.
No. 388, First National Bank of Clarion vs. Duff et al.
No. 389, Schmidt & Co. vs. Wagoner.

District Court—Judge Kirkpatrick.

The case of Duff vs. Wilson, taken up on Wednesday, is still on trial.

The following is the trial list for to-day:

No. 171, Robenstein vs. P. F. and M. Turnpike Co.
No. 172, Simpson vs. Gilmore.
No. 64, Rees vs. Morrow.
No. 145, Lewis vs. Johnston and wife.
No. 112, Jacoby vs. Schoee & Laurent.
No. 176, Brown, Jones vs. Sexauer "Beinlieer."
No. 178, Kennedy vs. Errett, Anderson & Co.
No. 179, Craig vs. Birch.
No. 180, Scott vs. Hay.

Court adjourned from Wednesday noon to Monday morning.

THE SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Fourth Day of the Institute—Discussion of Sabbath-School Topics—Final Adjournment.

The Sabbath-School Teachers' Institute, which has been in session at the Seventh Avenue Church since Monday, finished its business yesterday.

Institute met at 2½ o'clock P. M. yesterday, and fifteen minutes were spent in devotional exercises, after which Rev. T. H. Hanna opened the discussion on "Sabbath-School Superintendents." He said the superintendent should be a man of influence, not necessarily the richest nor the titled, but one of undoubtedly good Christian influence. He should be an organizer and governor. Firm in the administration of his laws—firm enough to keep out or quiet inveterate Sabbath School talkers who "love the dear children and would like to say a word," and firm enough to turn out inefficient teachers. He should be an ambitious man in the highest and best sense, determined to make it the model school.

Mr. W. H. Knox thought the Superintendent ought to be next best man to Pastor—should have personality, a mind of his own, should have strong sympathy and love for the scholars. Should exercise self-control, never be ill-tempered. He should be enthusiastic and consecrated to his work.

Rev. W. J. Reid said the Superintendent should be a lively man, he should not take more than five minutes to open the meeting. One man he knew was so slow in getting up that they called him "the rising moon."

T. H. Rabe thought he should be Godly and courageous. He has much to contend with and many to please.

Rev. J. C. Orumd said the Superintendent should be attentive to the wants of teachers and scholars.

Rev. J. S. Sands said the Superintendent should be *inventive* enough to give variety to the exercises of the school. Teachers should remember that no man possesses *all* the qualifications that have been named. Don't expect too much from your Superintendent.

Mr. Daniel Cooper then gave a very interesting and instructive blackboard lesson from the subject "The Boyhood of Jesus," to a class of boys. He showed very great tact in the use of illustrations and art of questioning, and succeeded in keeping the attention of his class, as well as of the whole congregation throughout the exercise.

Mr. Rabe advocated the use of the blackboard; he has one in every class room in his school.

Prof. Newell used to doubt the propriety of using the blackboard; felt as though it was secularizing the Sabbath school, but if he had said anything in opposition to its use, he was not publicly to recant, and now expressed his hearty approval of its judicious use.

Dr. J. R. Clark then addressed the Institute on help and hindrances to the Sabbath school work.

Teachers' meetings, T. J. Gillespie mentioned, as a great help in the work.

After adopting a resolution approving of the publication of the *Christian Worker*, the meeting adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

This was the closing session of the most delightful of these profitable meetings. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the evening a large company was present.

The time was occupied with earnest addresses and devotional exercises, all bearing on "Personal Consecration."

Rev. Dr. Hanna, W. H. Andrew, J. S. Speer, S. B. Reed, Maj. Wm. Frew, Dr. J. B. Clark and Rev. W. J. Reed spoke earnestly and affectionately on the nature of personal consecration and the duty resting on all for immediate consecration to the service of God.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Sabbath School Institute recommend first, Parents and church members generally to aid and encourage the workers in the Sabbath School by visitation, by home assistance in securing punctuality and preparation of assigned lessons, and by their own punctuality. Secondly, To the consciences of those not engaged in Sabbath School instructions as a means in having neither house nor furniture suitable for such purposes.

"Neither house nor furniture suitable for school purposes," the schools always thrive and prosper.

[NOTE.—The bad grammar in the above is not creditable to the Superintendent.]

Of the Mt. Washington borough school we have this remark:

"*Mount Washington*, with four rooms. This house has been refitted and one room added during the year—also, some new furniture was put into the school. It has, however, been found that with the increased facilities for the past two years, the number of pupils presenting themselves for admission has largely increased, and that the house is full to overflowing, and now every room in the building is filled to overflowing.

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To other schools in the same healthy township, are thus spoken of:

"*History*, neither house nor school are in a very satisfactory condition. Teacher very *indifferent* as to the proper discipline of the school. Has good ability, or third grade, and gives as a reason that, "it is not necessary for her to be a first-class teacher, as it is more of *compliment* to the *patrons* that she *teaches* at all, if she is a poor teacher." Here is a fine specimen of condition, and one would suppose, from the manner in which the reason is given, that no little interest was taken in the school by the teacher. The term is two months, and the pupils are making no such progress which it is reasonable that the term is only about five months, and the large majority of the pupils are in the primary part of the time. But let the teacher be encouraged by patronage, and the pupils by the prizes of adopting in their attendance, and then we will be prepared to admit—if the Board of Controllers for such schools must be something radically wrong.

These are but fair representaries on the manner in which our school system is managed in the rural districts, where the schools are most neglected; and parents must be willing to be taxed to have the best grade of teachers they wish to see the cause of popular education flourish and bless the people.

There might be some improvement made in the qualifications of the Directors and teachers, as will appear from the following extract from the report above alluded to. It is fairly worthy of the most intelligent consideration, but we are nevertheless tempted to give it, to show how the Superintendent of the State Superintendent, and at the same time to ask whether the unqualified teacher holds Mr. Douthett's certificate:

"*Turtlesville*, a very large school, some 80 pupils have been enrolled, and an average attendance of 60 for the month. One would judge from the scenes of confusion which, while in session, the school under the children are strangers to order. The teacher does not appear to have any control over the pupils, and from all appearances, the constant demand made for permission to go home or go out, which is almost constant, and, at least, one half of his time is occupied in the granting of similar requests. I would not grant to the pupils permission to go home or out to the privy—that is, if I could be allowed, if the teacher understands the business.

PASSAGE from Pittsburgh to London only $13, currency. Cheaper than other offices. At Bingham's Agency, 145 Smithfield street, near Sixth avenue.

ALLEGHENY.

CONTRACT AWARDED.—The Street Committee yesterday evening awarded the contract for the iron railing to be placed around the City building to Messrs Cochran & Bros., of Pittsburgh. The amount bid by Messrs. Cochran was $4,940.

SIGNAL BOX BROKEN.—Yesterday morning, as a countryman was passing down Madison avenue with a load of hay, the wagon struck the signal box near the Grant engine house, breaking it. Superintendent McCandless was notified, and immediately proceeded to repair and place the box in working order.

Park Improvements.

Engineer Davis has just completed a plan for the improvement of that portion of Spahr Commonage, east of Federal street, which it carried out will vacate Stocton avenue, with the exception of the side-walk next to the private property, and will open Irwin avenue the width of Church avenue. Mr. Davis' plan will add about one hundred feet to the property on the upper side of the common. It is suggested that this portion of the Park be enclosed with a curb and top-rail supported by plain gas-pipe.

Police Intelligence.

[Before Mayor Callow, of Allegheny.]

A SERIOUS JOKE.

Lawrence Schwegger charged two young men with appropriating to their own use a portion of Lawrence had hitched in front of Gerst's hall, in the Third ward, on Wednesday evening, while he stepped inside to enjoy a game. When the accused from the effects of the accused had asked and obtained permission from a companion who wagged his tail "for a rice." This fact being proved, the young men were dismissed.

LARCENY.

H. C. Howard appeared before the Mayor charging August Huedel with removing and appropriating to his own use a quantity of stone belonging to that portion of the city. A warrant was issued for the arrest of August.

Four common cases were disposed of in the morning; one paid his fine, one was committed, and the others were dismissed.

[Before Alderman Bolster.]

DESERTION.

Slopa Mueller came before the Alderman and charging her husband, Joseph Mueller, with desertion. Joseph has been a very indifferent provider. Last November he left Slopa to shift for herself and her two children. A warrant was issued.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT.

August Huedel came before the Alderman, charging H. C. Howard with vilifying and applying opprobrious epithets to him. The altercation grew out of a difficulty concerning the grading of the premises immediately adjoining Huedel's property. Howard, who was engaged in overseeing a number of workmen, desired Huedel to remove some debris which was in his way. Such language alleged to have been used was employed. A warrant was issued.

[Before Alderman Eggers.]

FALSE PRETENCES.

James Gori charged Peter Cesser with obtaining money under false pretenses. Cesser was formerly in the employ of Gurt as a driver, but was dismissed. Subsequently Cesser collected a bill for the sum $18 due Gurt, and appropriated the same to his own use. Hence suit. The Alderman held Cesser in bail for his appearance at Court.

ALLEGHENY COUNCILS.

Joint Session Last Evening

The Proposed Modification of the City Laws—The Acts Adopted—The Next Mayor to be Elected for Three Years—The Opening of Streets, Taxation, etc.

The Select and Common Councils of Allegheny city, held a joint session in the Common Council chamber, on Thursday evening, February 17th, for the purpose of considering the proposed changes in the laws regulating the government of the city.

SELECT COUNCIL.

JAMES MCBRIER.....*President.*
J. R. OXLEY.....*Clerk.*

The President having taken the chair, took occasion to state that the action of the joint session would be purely informal, hence it was not necessary to record the proceedings on the minutes.

The Clerk called the roll, and the following members answered as present: Messrs. Calvery, Gwinner, Hall, Huckenstine, Long, Megraw, Patterson J. C., Peterson, Reineman, Reiter, Weicksel and McBrier.....13

Council having been notified that Common Council was ready to meet in joint session, adjourned to the Common Council chamber.

COMMON COUNCIL.

HENRY WARNER.....*President.*
ROBERT DILWORTH.....*Clerk.*

Council met at half-past seven o'clock, the Clerk called the roll when the following members answered as present:

Messrs. Ashworth, Comley, Dalzell, Gilland, Hanna, Hunker, Hastings, Herchenroether, McNeil, Rowbottom, Reynolds, Slack, Seible, Tagart, Wingerter, Vogelgesang and Warner.

The PRESIDENT having stated the object of the meeting, a motion was made to notify the Select Council that Common Council was prepared to go into joint session. Carried.

Joint Session.

The Councils met in joint session.

Mr. COMLEY submitted the new city code, and read a list of the ordinances accompanying it.

OPENING OF STREETS.

The first section taken up was the act relating to the opening and grading of streets, &c.

Mr. MCBRIER said this was the old street law with very few alterations, and it was for the Councils to say whether it was necessary for them to spend time on points when there were no changes.

Mr. MCCOMBS city solicitor said the act provided for a change in the mode of opening streets, such having been deemed necessary.

Mr. MCBRIER proceeded to read the act which was quite lengthy. The object of the act as stated by Mr. McCombs was to simplify the mode of opening streets. Under the existing law it took about a year and a half to open a street, and sometimes when the damages were contested in court on a question of damages it took as long as ten or eleven years. Under the proposed law it would not be more than six months to open a street, and the object also was to do no injustice to parties interested.

Mr. HALL thought the allowance of damages by the plan provided for in this act, would be likely to satisfy no one.

The act as read was adopted.

THE ELECTION OF MAYOR AND OTHER CITY OFFICERS.

The next section taken up was that providing for the election of Mayor, members of Councils and other city officers, and defining the duties and powers of Councils, there being nothing in the old code on the subject.

The second Monday of December was fixed for the election of Mayor and members of Council, the Mayor to serve for three years instead of two as at present, and to be ineligible to the office for two succeeding terms. The law not to affect the present Mayor.

Mr. MCBRIER thought the Mayor ought to be required to give bonds in the sum of $10,000 as heretofore, and he was supposed to handle a considerable amount of money in the course of a year.

Mr. J. C. PATTERSON thought that the bond should be fixed at $5,000.

Mr. Hall moved an amendment to the section relating to the Mayor, providing that the bond be fixed at such an amount as the Councils may deem sufficient. Adopted.

The questions being called upon the adoption of the report as read.

Mr. HALL objected to the shape in which the report was presented. He thought the information would be valuable and of great importance to the Legislature to know wherein the new code differed from the present code, but nothing was yet said concerning the new language in having neither house nor furniture suitable for school purposes.

"Neither house nor furniture suitable for school purposes, and should be vacated. Nothing was yet said concerning the new code, and the character of the proposed alterations. If he were asked what the new code contained, he could not tell, and he presumed the majority of the members might read it and not intelligently on the subject.

Mr. MCBRIER differed with Mr. Hall. It was not necessary, in his opinion, to spend money in printing the new code.

Mr. J. C. PATTERSON opposed that the Committee contemplated printing the code, but only the changes. He thought the new code was a good one, and which was similar to the present code, but nothing like as full and complete as the present code, but nothing could be added to it. He was opposed to the printing of the code, but he was in favor of publishing the changes.

Mr. HALL was of the opinion that too much time would not be devoted to the code if it did not oppose the changes; he did not as yet understand the code, but nothing could be expected at this meeting, owing to the shape in which it was presented.

The PRESIDENT here read the section exempting the new city renewed bonds from local and State taxation.

A member moved the adoption of the act as read.

Mr. SLACK moved that the act be taken up section by section. It was important that the members should know what they were voting for.

PRESIDENT MCBRIER did not perceive the necessity for the motion. The chapter read by Mr. Patterson was quite lengthy.

Upon the question being called, the motion to take up each section successively was lost, the ayes and nays being taken on the motion.

The President McBrier read the following special act:

An act relating to taxation of Banks and Insurance Companies in the City of Allegheny.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsyl